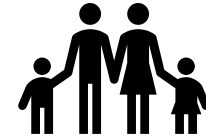




St. Joseph's Parish



Family Activity Sheet



Week 5 of Ordinary Time: 7th – 13th Feb 2021



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January comes to an end with this edition and we begin February with a busy week on the liturgical calendar. This edition of the family activities sheet will be focussing on Sunday's Gospel, on the feast of the presentation in the Temple and St. Blaise, a saint who is really relevant to pray to in these "Covid" times.

There is a new dedicated email address for this family activities sheet (see above) and I really encourage you to get in touch with any ideas that you think we can focus on in the coming months, as well as pictures of the activities that you have been doing. It really does encourage other people and shows off your own talents.

Lent is fast approaching and there are ideas being germinated on that, how we can use this time in our families and in the parish, to prepare for the greatest feast of the Church's year – Easter! As above – if you have ideas, please get in touch.

***There are Four Dimensions of the Faith
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.

Sunday 7th February; 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel Mark 1:29-39

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found Him, they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.



Family reflection on the First Reading:

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



Discuss these questions together.

Q: The early part of Mark's Gospel sees Jesus very busy. Last week we read that Jesus *taught* in the synagogue and *healed* a man. What are all Jesus' different actions in this week's Gospel? (A: *Went* to Simon and Andrew's house; *Healed* Simon's mother-in-law (Jesus *went* to Simon's mother and Law and *helped* her up, thereby healing her) *Cured* people, *cast out* devils; *left* the house to *pray* in a lonely place; *said* that they needed to *go elsewhere* and *preach*...).

Q: We can sum up Jesus' activities as preaching, healing, going and praying. These reflect the Four Dimensions of the Faith listed on the front page of this booklet. Which of these actions match which dimension? (A: Preaching = speaking/learning about the faith; Healing = the Liturgy and the sacraments; Going = living the faith, that is making sure that everyone is OK; Praying = praying.)

Q: How can we listen to Jesus teaching us? (A: by reading the Bible/doing these activities)

Q: We often pray for healing when people are sick. Jesus does help people to get better if that is His plan for them. But there are other kinds of healing and healing of relationships is also important. How can we ask Jesus to help us to get on better with others? (A: Suggested answers: We can pray for grace... we can make the Sign of the Cross if we are tempted to get angry with someone.)

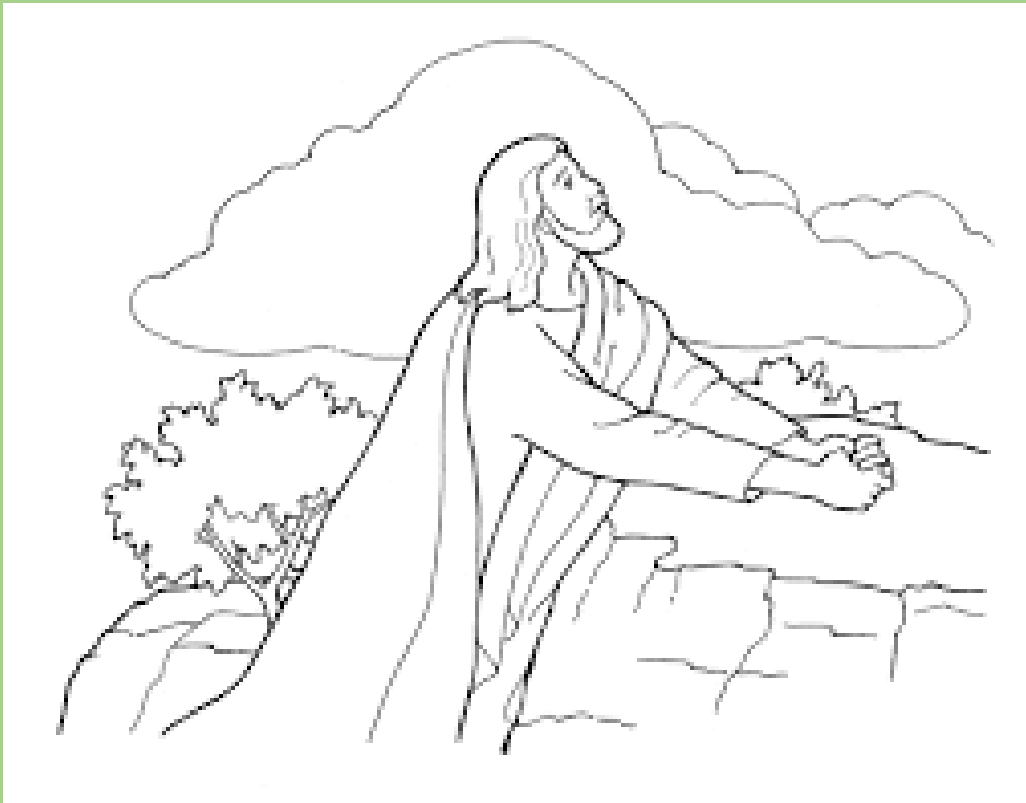
Q: When did Jesus pray? (A: Very early in the morning/in the middle of the night.).

Q: Why did Jesus pray? (A: Various; to get strength from His Father/the Holy Spirit).

Q: When can we pray more? (A: Open-ended answer.).

Make a puppet show of Jesus travelling around.

- Draw and colour a picture of Jesus, cut out and stick on card (from a box of something that has been delivered?)
- Do the same for the key figures in the story (Andrew, Simon, James and John, Simon's mother-in-Law, may be you can have the pairs of brothers on the same card)
- Create a card of a large crowd
- Create a card of Jesus praying.
- Fix each card on a stick (or a pencil) and then one person read the story whilst other family members act it out with the puppets.
- Here are some suggested "people" shapes which I have downloaded. You might be able to find other ones.





These figures have Old Testament names attached but they are ideas for what you can use.

obtained from <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org>

Please send us photos of your puppet shows. Or may be if you have a video you are willing to share on the Parish Facebook page, let us know.

Email stjoe.fam.activities@gmail.com



Adam



Enoch



Noah



Abraham



Moses



Samuel



Jonah



Daniel

St. Joseph

Here is another feature on St. Joseph. What do we know about St. Joseph? Here are some facts about him and a few fables as well. You can cut them out if you like and stick the true ones around the picture of St. Joseph taken from the stained hglass window in the church. (Answers at the end)

St. Joseph followed Jesus when he was teaching in Galilee

St. Joseph's family came from Bethlehem

St. Joseph was engaged to Mary when the Angel Gabriel visited her

St. Joseph was told by an angel the baby Mary was carrying was the Son of God.

St. Joseph is patron saint of the Universal (whole) Church

St. Joseph took the family to Egypt to escape King Herod who wanted to kill baby Jesus

St. Joseph is a descendant of King David

St. Joseph is patron saint of fathers

St. Joseph took Jesus' body down from the cross

St. Joseph was an old man when Jesus was born

St. Joseph is patron saint of unborn children

St. Joseph is patron saint of immigrants

St. Joseph is patron saint a happy death

St. Joseph has two feast days; 19th March and 1st May

St. Joseph is patron saint of workers

St. Joseph was a carpenter



In fact, most of these are correct. The only ones not correct or not known are:

- St. Joseph of Aramatheia took Jesus' body down from the cross – a different Joseph!
- We have no idea how old Joseph was when Jesus was born – the Bible does not say. He might have been a young man.
- There is no mention of St. Joseph during Jesus' public ministry when He was teaching, and it is assumed that he had died before Jesus started to teach as Mary did accompany Jesus as He travelled around.

And a note on his two feast days: 19th March and 1st May. 1st May is the feast of St. Joseph the worker (patron saint of workers). Please send photos of your collage, or even better, bring it send it to the Church for display.

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Prayer to St. Joseph

There is an official prayer to St. Joseph for this year, but it is quite wordy for families. You can look it up here <https://yearofstjoseph.org/devotions/prayers/>

Instead, it would be lovely to see some of your own prayers. As ever, please email any prayers you write as a family if you would like to share them with the parish. stjoe.fam.activities@gmail.com



Remember, when we pray to the saints, they then turn to Jesus as they are with Him in heaven and ask Jesus to help us.

Lent is approaching!

This year we are inviting all parishioners, either by themselves or family groups to send in **pictures/models** (small enough to fit on a windowsill in the Church) or a **reflection** or a **prayer** (which can be written out for display) on one of the stations of the Cross.

First come first served – let me know your choice and I will take it off the list.

These can be brought to the Church any time on or after Ash Wednesday (17th February) to be displayed until Easter. Hopefully they can be used in the celebration of the Stations of the Cross one Sunday.

Choose from:

- (1) Jesus is condemned to death,
- (2) Jesus carries his cross
- (3) Jesus falls the first time
- (4) Jesus meets his mother
- (5) Simon of Cyrene helps to carry Jesus' cross
- (6) Veronica wipes Jesus' face
- (7) Jesus falls the second time
- (8) The women of Jerusalem weep over Jesus,

- (9) Jesus falls the third time
- (10) Jesus is stripped of his garments
- (11) Jesus is nailed to the cross
- (12) Jesus dies on the cross
- (13) Jesus is taken down from the cross
- (14) Jesus is placed in the tomb
- (15) Jesus rises on Easter Sunday morning

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Signs of Spring

As we begin the month of February, we see signs of God's creation waking up around us. (I am writing this with snow still on the ground) but even through the snow, we see snowdrops opening up and the daffodil plants beginning to grow. I've seen my first lambs this year! It would be lovely to share your images of spring. Please email pictures to

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