

St. Joseph's Children's Liturgy of the Word

Year C weeks 27-34



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St. Joseph is the patron saint of the family, and the family is the “domestic Church.” These sheets were originally developed to support my parish of St. Joseph in Great Malvern, Worcestershire, but they are now used by parishes and schools not just in the UK, but some are sent to contacts abroad as well.

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

Welcome to the final edition for Children's Liturgy of the Word for Year C.

October is the month of the Holy Rosary. This is dealt With, in more detail in the saints and Celebrations for October, but as there are a few Gospels focussing on prayer this month, it has been included on the 29th Sunday of the year, which may or may not coincide with the solemnity of All Saints.

Solemnities which may or may not fall on a Sunday are covered in the Saints and celebrations editions and the November edition carries All Saints as well as the Solemnity of the dedication of the Lateran Basilica.

This wonderful place is actually the Cathedral of the Diocese of Rome (not St. Peter's which many people think). The Lateran Basilica is therefore mother church of the Church.

The Gospels in November are not the easiest for small children to take on board, but I hope that the suggestions attached will be helpful.

Remembrance Sunday (the second Sunday in November in the UK) is not actually a part of the Church's liturgy but the Saints and Celebrations

edition of November carries some discussion questions and a relevant activity. As the questions are not directly linked to any particular Gospel you might have to forge some links first.

Finally, we end with the wonderful solemnity of Christ the King. Christ is our universal King, yet the Gospel presents Him on the Cross.

Unlike King Charles III, Christ is not a king of an earthly territory, but King of the universal Church. His Cross is His throne, and His crown is made up of thorns. It's a kingdom built on His Passion, death, Resurrection and Ascension.

Note the **hope** in the “good” thief's request, that Christ will remember him when He comes into His kingdom. We need to help our children and young people to have hope. There is so much fear and bad news “out there” so we need to have faith in Christ ourselves – that whatever happens, He will not abandon us. When we can show our faith and show that we have hope in Eternal Life with Christ, just as the “good” thief did, then by God's grace those we are working with, whether it's the family, or in catechesis, or in schools, they too will come to hope in Christ as the only solution for our times.

God bless, *Carol Ann Harnett*

Children's liturgy of the word for this week



Gospel for 27th Sunday Year C

Luke 17:5-10

At that time:
The Apostles said to the Lord,
‘Increase our faith!’
And the Lord said,
‘If you had faith like a grain of
mustard seed,
you could say to this mulberry
tree,
“Be uprooted and planted in the
sea”,
and it would obey you.
‘Will any one of you who has a
servant ploughing or keeping
sheep
say to him when he has come in
from the field,
“Come at once and recline at
table”?
Will he not rather say to him,
“Prepare supper for me, and dress
properly,
and serve me while I eat and
drink,
and afterwards you will eat and
drink”?
Does he thank the servant because he
did what was commanded?
So you also, when you have done all
that you were commanded,
say, “We are unworthy servants;
we have only done what was our
duty.” ’

Discussion on the Gospel

✠ Light a candle

✠ Introduce the Gospel liturgically

It's worth showing the children a mustard seed – it's a tiny round seed about the size of a pinhead. Jesus is saying that even a tiny bit of faith in Him can do amazing things.

Q: What did Jesus say that His disciples could do if they had even a tiny bit of faith? (A: Tell a mulberry tree to move itself and it would.)

Q: Today's Gospel is about faith. What is faith? (A: It's believing in Jesus.)

Q: What do we believe about Jesus? (A: Open....)

Q: So, we all have faith in Jesus and like the tree it has to grow. What makes a tree grow?
(A: Sun, soil, water....)

Q: As the tree is fed by these things, grows and produces fruit, our faith grows and produces fruit when it is fed. What helps our faith in Jesus to grow? (A: Coming to Mass, praying, learning about Jesus, reading the Bible, the sacraments ...)

Q: Suddenly Jesus seems to change the subject and starts to talk about how a master might treat his servant. Does a master normally serve the servant? (A: No.)

Q: On another occasion, Jesus told His disciples that THEY had to be servants. What does a servant do? (A: Looks after other people.)

Q: When did Jesus serve His disciples? (A: When He washed their feet at the Last Supper. [Jn. chapter 13])

In the Gospel, Jesus is making the link between having faith in Him and serving other people. When we really believe that He is God and that He is inviting us to Eternal Life (heaven) we serve people not because we HAVE to, but because we WANT to. We serve people as a response of love to Jesus serving us. Our serving other people is a response of faith. We treat other people as if they are Jesus. When we do this, our faith in Jesus grows, and, like the mulberry tree does, and produces lots of fruit.

Finish with the prayer of St. Ignatius on the next page which can be coloured in and put up for display.



Teach us good Lord to serve you as
you deserve; to give and not to
count the cost; to fight and not to
heed the wounds; to toil and not to
seek to rest; to work and
not to ask for reward, save
that of knowing that we
do your holy will. Amen.

**Gospel for 28th Sunday
Year C**

Luke 17:11-19

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was passing along between Samaria and Galilee.

And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices, saying, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.'

When he saw them, he said to them, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' And as they went they were cleansed.

Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks.

Now he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus answered,

'Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine?'

Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?'

And he said to him, 'Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.'

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

✠ Introduce the Gospel liturgically

If you are leading this during Mass, it might be a good idea to find out from Father which preface he is using and then (assuming that the children are back in church) he can perhaps say the opening part more slowly and encourage the children to really listen/follow it as he thanks God the Father.

Q: Where was Jesus? (A: On the border between Samaria and Galilee.)

Q. This is important as the Jews did not like the Samaritans and thought that they were not good people. Who came up to Jesus as he entered a village? (A: 10 lepers.)

Q: What is a leper? (A: Someone who has a nasty skin disease that in those days was not curable. Lepers had to keep "social distance" from everyone else and so could not work or go into any town or village.)

Q: What did Jesus say when the lepers asked Him to have mercy on them? (A: "Go and show yourself to the priest")

Q: The priests were the ones who decided if a sick person was well enough to mix with the community again. So, Jesus was sending the lepers to the priest to prove that they were cured and could go back to their homes. How many came back to say thank you? (A: One.)

Q: Who was the one who said thank you? (A: A Samaritan.)

Q: How did he say thank you? (A. He praised God at the top of his voice and threw himself at Jesus' feet.)

Q: Saying thank you is really important. When do we say thank you? (A: Open.)

Q: During Mass the priest says "thank you" to God the Father. Do you know when? (A: Mainly in the Eucharistic Prayer which is a long prayer saying thank you to the Father.)

Q: One word for Holy Communion is "the Eucharist" and this actually means "The Thank You". So, when people receive Jesus in Holy Communion they are actually saying, "thank you" to Jesus for saving them from their sins. How did Jesus save us all? (A: By dying on the cross, rising and ascending into heaven.)

The Preface is at the beginning of the Eucharistic Prayer. It always begins by saying thank you to the Father, such as this one here. (Either read the one below or the one your priest will be using at Mass.)

Around the picture of Jesus, write or draw things that you want to say thank you to Jesus for. When we say thank you to Jesus, He thanks the Father on our behalf.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.



Gospel for 29th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year C

Luke 18:1-8

At that time: Jesus told his disciples a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.

He said,

‘In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man.

And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, “Give me justice against my adversary.”

For a while he refused, but afterwards he said to himself, “Though I neither fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.”

And the Lord said, ‘Hear what the unrighteous judge says. And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night?

Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?’

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

✠ Introduce the Gospel liturgically

If you are able to, it would be worth including the first reading as it's a real image of Moses' faith and perseverance in prayer. The image of him holding his hands up and being supported when he was tiring is a great one. It also shows us how we can help other people in being faithful as Aaron and Hur supported Moses.

Q: Why did Jesus tell the parable? (A: He wanted to emphasise the need to pray continually.)

Q: What was the widow doing? (A: She was pestering the judge for justice.)

Q: What is a widow? (A: A woman whose husband has died. In those days women could not go out to work and so if a woman's husband died then she had no way to earn money and so would not be able to pay the judge.)

Q: What does the judge do in the end? (A: He gives her what she wants just to get peace for himself.)

Q: Jesus explains that God the Father is not like the unjust judge. What is God like then?

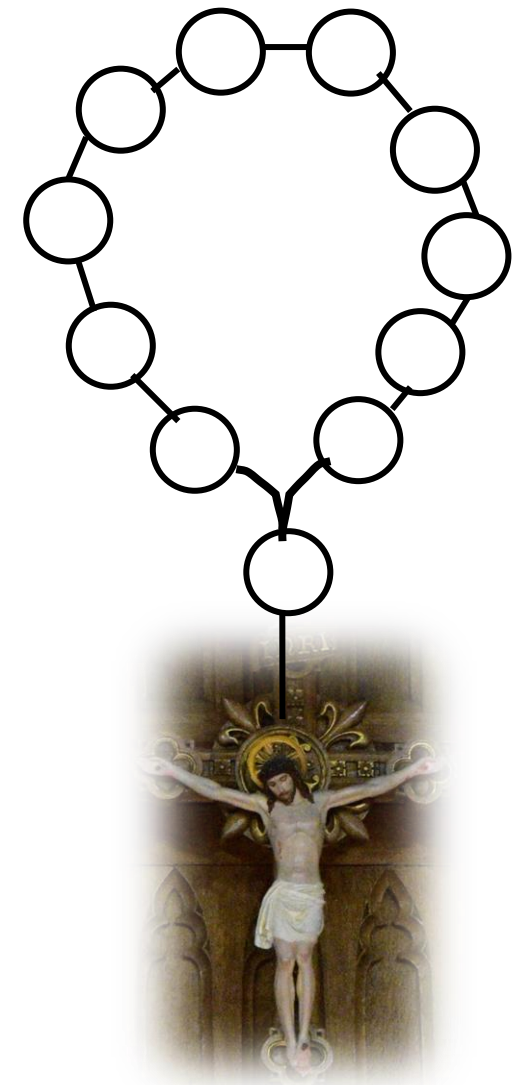
(A: Open, but you could add that God will respond to those who cry to Him day and night – that is, those who keep on praying for something they need.)

Q: What is praying? (A: Talking and listening to God the Father through Jesus Christ His Son by the power of the Holy Spirit.)

Q: Each of us needs to keep praying for things – big things like peace and justice and little things like family upsets. We also need to pray for ourselves. We are good at praying for other people, but let's think a moment, when did we last pray for ourselves? (A: Open.)

Q: Jesus talks about constantly praying, but we can't pray when we are asleep. The Church all over the world is always praying, so when we are asleep, other people are praying. When we are awake and pray, we are joining in with the continuous prayer of the whole Church. Do you know anyone in a different country? (A: Open.)

Q: Think about the fact that they will be praying when we are asleep. Mary, our blessed mother in heaven loves nothing more to pray for us. When we pray to her, because she is right next to Jesus, she asks Jesus to help us. October is the month of the Rosary so let's finish by saying the Hail Mary three times. (More if you have more times, or even a decade of the rosary if you have time).



Pray a decade of the rosary. Colour in One "bead" as you pray each Hail Mary. Think about a different country for each Hail Mary and see if you can point it out on the world map. When you do this, you are praying for the people there who will pray for you when you can't pray. (Don't forget the bottom bead is the Our Father at the beginning, and the Glory Be at the end of each decade.)

Children's liturgy of the word for this week



Gospel for 30th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year C,

Luke 18:9-14

At that time: Jesus told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt:

‘Two men went up into the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus:

“God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.”

But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, “God, be merciful to me, a sinner!”

I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.’

The Gospel of the Lord: R/: **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

Discussion on the Gospel

✠ Light a candle

✠ Introduce the Gospel liturgically

Again we continue to dwell on the importance of prayer. Last week we focussed on continuous prayer and that when we prayed, we were joining in with the ongoing continuous prayer of the whole Church. Here the focus is on where our heart lies in prayer. This session includes a moment of silent contemplative prayer, trying to help the children to realise that prayer is about a movement of the heart, not just formulae of words.

Q: Who went to the Temple to pray? (A: A Pharisee and a tax collector.)

Q: What kind of person was the Pharisee? (A: He was proud and tried to live as a good man; he fasted and gave to the poor. But he was also judgemental and looked down on other people.)

Q: What was a tax-collector? (A: Someone who collected the taxes from the Jews and paid them to the hated Romans. The tax collectors were hated by the Jews.)

Q: How did the tax-collector pray? (A: He beat his breast and asked God for mercy.)

Q: What does it mean to ask God for mercy? (A: To ask God not to be angry and to forgive us our sins.)

Q: When do we ask God for mercy at Mass? (A: Near the beginning in the “I confess” and/or in the prayers “Lord have mercy/Christ have mercy/Lord have mercy”.)

Q: Why do we ask God for His mercy at the beginning of Mass? (A: So that we can recognise that we are sinful people and ask God to forgive us so that we are ready to listen to the readings and be prepared to receive Jesus in Holy Communion if we are able to.)

We can ask God for His mercy at any time. When we speak to Jesus, and He speaks on our behalf to His Father straight away! Of course, we won't receive the grace that comes in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, but the Holy Spirit still fills us with His love. Let's shut our eyes and imagine that we are looking at Jesus ... Tell Him something bad that you have done ... Say sorry to Jesus ... See Him smile at you and hold out His hand to you ... say thank you to Jesus and when you are ready, open your eyes and come back to the room. Finish by saying the I confess slowly or the children repeating it after you, so they begin to learn it as a prayer.

The "I Confess"*

**I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and
sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I
have failed to do,**

***And, striking their breast 3 times,
say:***

**through my fault,
through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;**

**therefore I ask blessed Mary
ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our
God.**

Draw a picture of the tax collector striking his breast and asking God for mercy. Is he going to have a sad face because he is sorry or a happy face because He knows how much God loves Him?

Children's liturgy of the word for this week

Gospel for 31st Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year C

Luke 19:1-10

At that time: Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus.

He was a chief tax collector and was rich. And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature.

So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way.

And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, 'Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.'

So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully.

And when the crowds saw it, they all grumbled, 'He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.'

And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, 'Behold, Lord, half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.'

And Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham.

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.'

The Gospel of the Lord: R/: ***Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ***

Discussion on the Gospel

✠ Light a candle

✠ Introduce the Gospel liturgically

Today's Gospel neatly follows on from last week's theme of seeking God's mercy. Again we have a tax collector

Q: What did Zacchaeus do in order to see Jesus? (A: He climbed a tree.)

Q: What was a tax-collector? (A: Someone who collected the taxes from the Jews and paid them to the hated Romans. The tax collectors were hated by the Jews.)

Q: What did Jesus do when he reached the tree? (A: Stopped and spoke to Zacchaeus.)

Q: What did Jesus say to Zacchaeus that surprised him and everyone else? (A: That He was going to stay at Zacchaeus' house that day.)

Q: How did Zacchaeus react to Jesus saying this? (A: He was pleased [welcomed Him joyfully].)

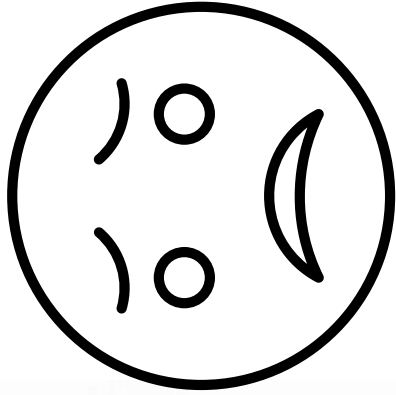
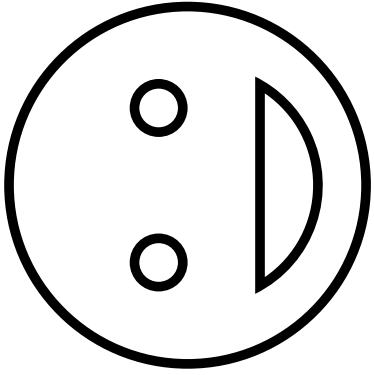
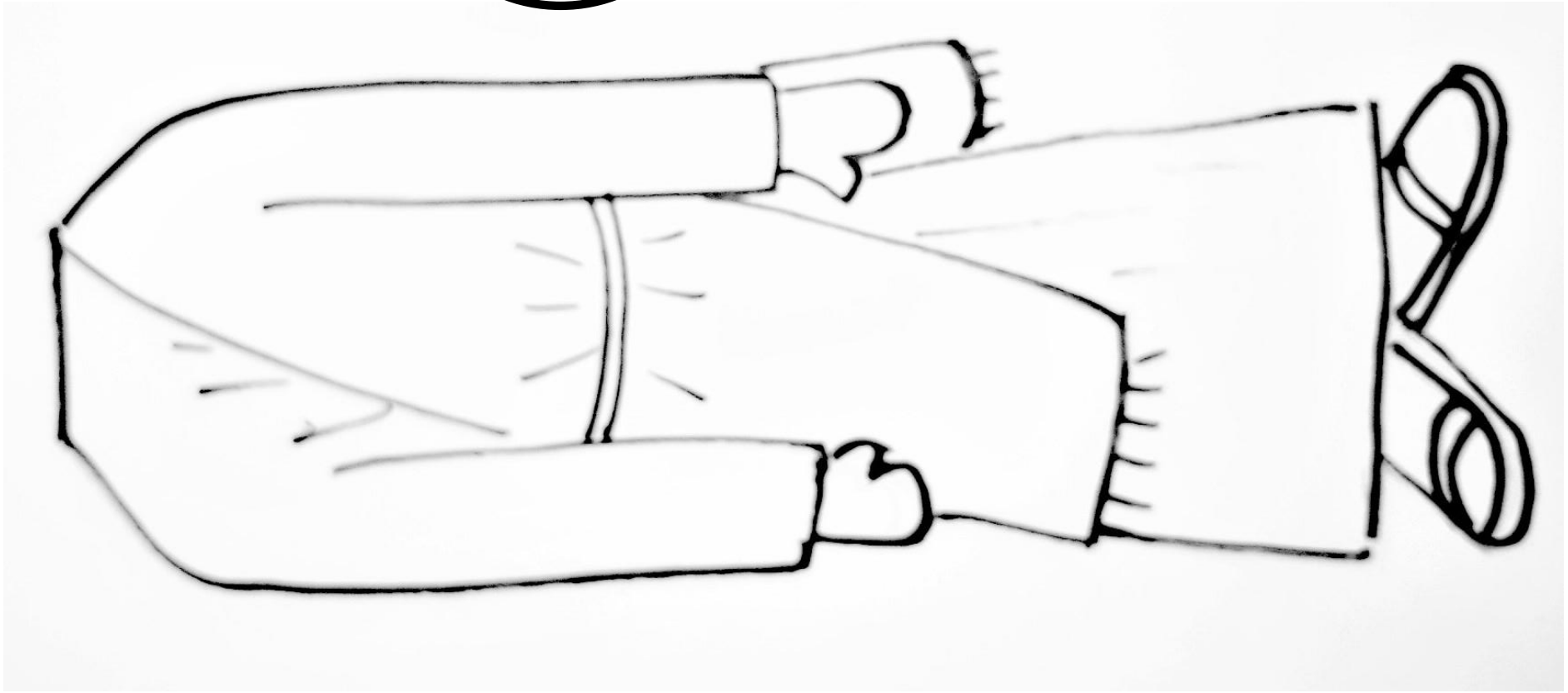
Q: What did everyone else say? (A: They grumbled and said that Jesus was going to stay at a sinner's house.)

Q: What did Zacchaeus do as a result of meeting Jesus? (A: He said that he was going to repay people 4 times and give half his property to the poor.)

Q: This is an amazing conversion of heart! One minute he is a nasty cheating little man and the next Zacchaeus has found joy and love when he meets Jesus. When do we meet Jesus? (A: At Mass, in the Eucharist, in the other sacraments, especially Baptism, when we pray, in other people who reflect Jesus' love.....)

Q: Zacchaeus' whole life changed when he met Jesus and this is who the saints are. Their lives have been changed by meeting Jesus. Jesus wants our lives to change too and so He invites Himself to be a part of our lives. How can we give Jesus a chance to be a part of our lives? (A: Open, e.g., regular prayer, Mass, read the Bible regularly, set up a sacred corner at home, use holy water at home, chat to Jesus throughout the day, telling Him how we are feeling...)

On the next page is a "puppet" to cut out and make. There are two faces – make one sad and the other happy. The children can use the puppet to remind them that Jesus makes us happy! Send me photos of the results!



Here is a Zacchaeus "puppet" to cut out and make. There are two faces - a sad one and a happy one. The sad one is Zacchaeus before he met Jesus and the happy one is after. Cut out the figure and stick a paper straw on the back with tape. Then stick both "faces" onto a thin stick such as a BBQ skewer (better cut off the sharp end) and slide the skewer down the straw. The face can then turn from sad to happy. You can use the puppet to remind you that Jesus makes us happy!

Children's liturgy of the word for this week



Gospel for 32nd Sunday Year C

Luke 20:27-38

At that time: There came to Jesus some Sadducees, those who deny that there is a resurrection, and they asked him a question, saying, 'Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies, having a wife but no children, the man must take the widow and raise up offspring for his brother.

Now there were seven brothers. The first took a wife, and died without children. And the second, and the third took her, and likewise all seven left no children and died. Afterwards the woman also died. In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had her as wife.'

And Jesus said to them, 'The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage, but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage, for they cannot die any more, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.

But that the dead are raised, even Moses showed, in the passage about the bush, where he calls the Lord the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. Now he is not God of the dead, but of the living, for all live to him.'

The Gospel of the Lord R/: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Discussion on the Gospel

✠ Light a candle

✠ Introduce the Gospel liturgically

The message of the Gospel is that we all hope to enjoy Eternal Life in heaven with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The discussion turns toward those in heaven; the saints, and patron saints. It may be helpful to have a book of saints at hand and if you know who is likely to come, to look up some of their saints first.

Q: The Sadducees were people who did not believe in heaven. In today's Gospel, Jesus is explaining why they are wrong. First, He talks about Moses. Who was Moses? (A: An Old Testament prophet who led the People of God out of Egypt away from slavery.)

Q: Does anyone know how God first spoke to Moses? (A: God appeared to him in a bush that was on fire but did not burn up.)

Q: God told Moses to go to Pharaoh and tell him that he was to let his people go. Moses was a bit worried and asked God who He was and God replied, "I am the God of Abraham, of Isaac and of Jacob." Does anyone know who these people were? (A: Great men from the Old Testament who had lived a long time before Moses and who were now dead.)

Q: Jesus is saying that these great men might be not living on earth anymore, but they are living in heaven. What do we call people in heaven? (A: Saints.)

Q: We have just celebrated the Solemnity of All Saints. Who are our favourite saints? (A: Open.)

Q: We cannot see the people in heaven, the saints, but we know that they are alive with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit in glory. They are close to Jesus and are always looking out for us, asking Jesus to help us. Who has ever asked a saint to help them? (A: Open.)

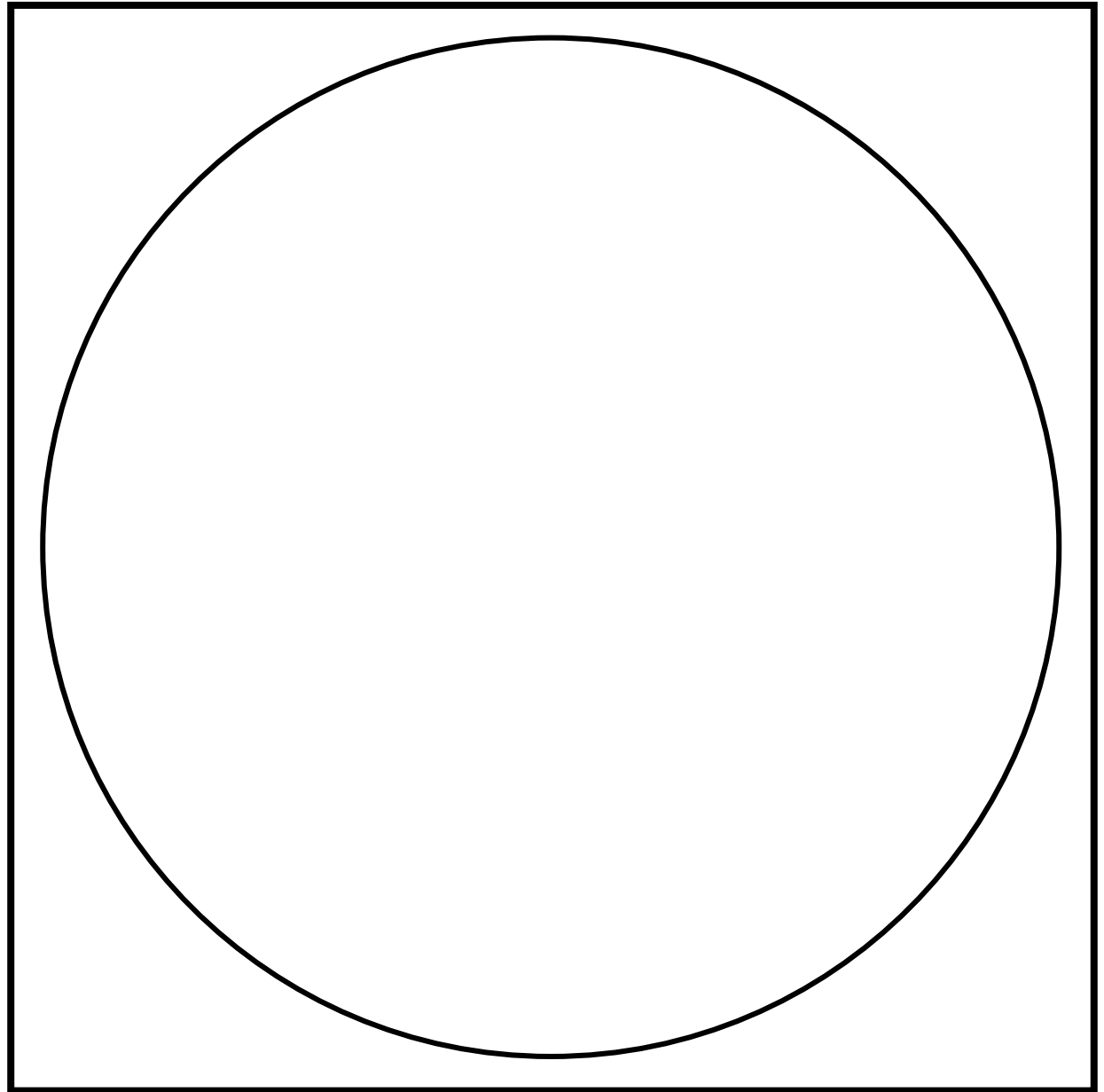
Q: Let's think about our favourite saints – what do we know about them? (A: Open – it may be helpful to have a book of saints and look them up if needed and also you can look up the children's patron saints.)

End with a litany of saints – either a list of the saints' names of those present or popular saints including the parish saint, e.g., St. Joseph, pray for us, St. John, pray for us, St. Catherine, pray for us ... etc.



This is the inside of the dome in Naples Cathedral. It is an image of heaven, with the Father in the middle and all the angels and saints around. Can you see Mary, the figure in blue on the right-hand side, and then Jesus rising from the dead on the left? The Holy Spirit is represented by all the clouds surrounding all the figures.

In the circle on the right, draw your own picture of heaven with all the angels and saints.



Children's liturgy of the word for this week

Gospel for 33rd Sunday Year C

Luke 21:5-19

At that time: While some were speaking of the Temple, how it was adorned with noble stones and offerings, Jesus said, 'As for these things that you see, the days will come when there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.'

And they asked him, 'Teacher, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?'

And he said, 'See that you are not led astray. For many will come in my name, saying, "I am he!" and, "The time is at hand!" Do not go after them. And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified, for these things must first take place, but the end will not be at once.'

Then he said to them, 'Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake.

This will be your opportunity to bear witness. Settle it, therefore in your minds, not to meditate beforehand how to answer, for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict.

You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and sisters, and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. You will be hated by all for my name's sake. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your lives.'

The Gospel of the Lord. R:/Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Discussion on the Gospel



✠ Light a candle

✠ Introduce the Gospel liturgically

If this Gospel is on Remembrance Sunday there is a different activity to do with different questions in the Saints and celebrations for November.

Q: What building were the people admiring? (A: The Temple [in Jerusalem].)

Q. What did Jesus say would happen to it? (A: It would be destroyed.)

Q: What did Jesus say that the nations (countries) would do? (A: Fight each other.)

Q: Today there are still wars going on. Where are people fighting each other? (A: Open.)

Q: What is a war? (A: When one country or group of people fight with another country or group of people.)

Q: Wars happen when people don't respect other people... and they argue and think that they can only get their way by forcing other people to do what they want. Jesus says at the end of today's Gospel that we have to settle an argument before it gets too big. Have you even had an argument with someone? (A: Open.)

Q: What can we do if we start to argue with someone? (A. Open.)

Q: Jesus says that whatever we do to anyone else, we do to Him. Would you like to start fighting with Jesus? (A: No.)

Q: If you find yourself arguing with a friend or brother or sister, you can do this... Imagine that it's Jesus standing there with you, not the person you are arguing with. What would you do if it was Jesus? (A: Open, e.g. give them a hug.)

In Holy Communion Jesus joins us to Himself and to each other and helps us to live at peace with one another. Although Jesus knew that there would be wars, he wants us to have peace. Let us finish with this prayer for peace:

© God, give us, your servants that peace
which the world cannot give, that we may
serve you with our whole hearts and live quiet
lives under your protection, free from the
fear of our enemies. Through Christ Our
Lord, Amen.



Gospel for the Solemnity of Christ the King Year C

Luke 23:35-43

At that time: The rulers scoffed at Jesus, saying,
'He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!'
The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!'
There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.'
One of the criminals who were hanged there railed at Jesus, saying, 'Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!'
But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?
And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.' And he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.'
And Jesus said to him, 'Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.'

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

✠ Introduce the Gospel liturgically

Jesus is the universal King, but the Cross is His throne. The "good" thief is good because he recognises in Christ something amazing that leads him to recognise that Christ has a kingdom, one that is open to us all. The discussion leads to making the Sign of the Cross with the children – if you have some holy water at hand, they can dip their fingers in and make this moment as solemn as possible. There are two activities – on the second page is a simple picture of Jesus on the cross for younger children to colour. If you print this back-to-back there would be a choice.

Q: Where is Jesus? (A: On the Cross.)

Q: What did the soldiers call Jesus? (A: King of the Jews.)

Q: Who else was being crucified beside Jesus on that day? (A: Two criminals [thieves].)

Q: One of the criminals taunted Jesus but the other one didn't. What did the second criminal say to Jesus? (A: "Remember me when you come into your kingdom".)

Q: This is amazing – Jesus is on the cross being treated like a criminal, but the real criminal recognises that Jesus has a kingdom. What is a kingdom? (A: The place ruled or looked after by a king.)

Q: What do kings wear on their heads? (A: Crowns.)

Q: What kind of crown was Jesus wearing? (A: A crown of thorns.)

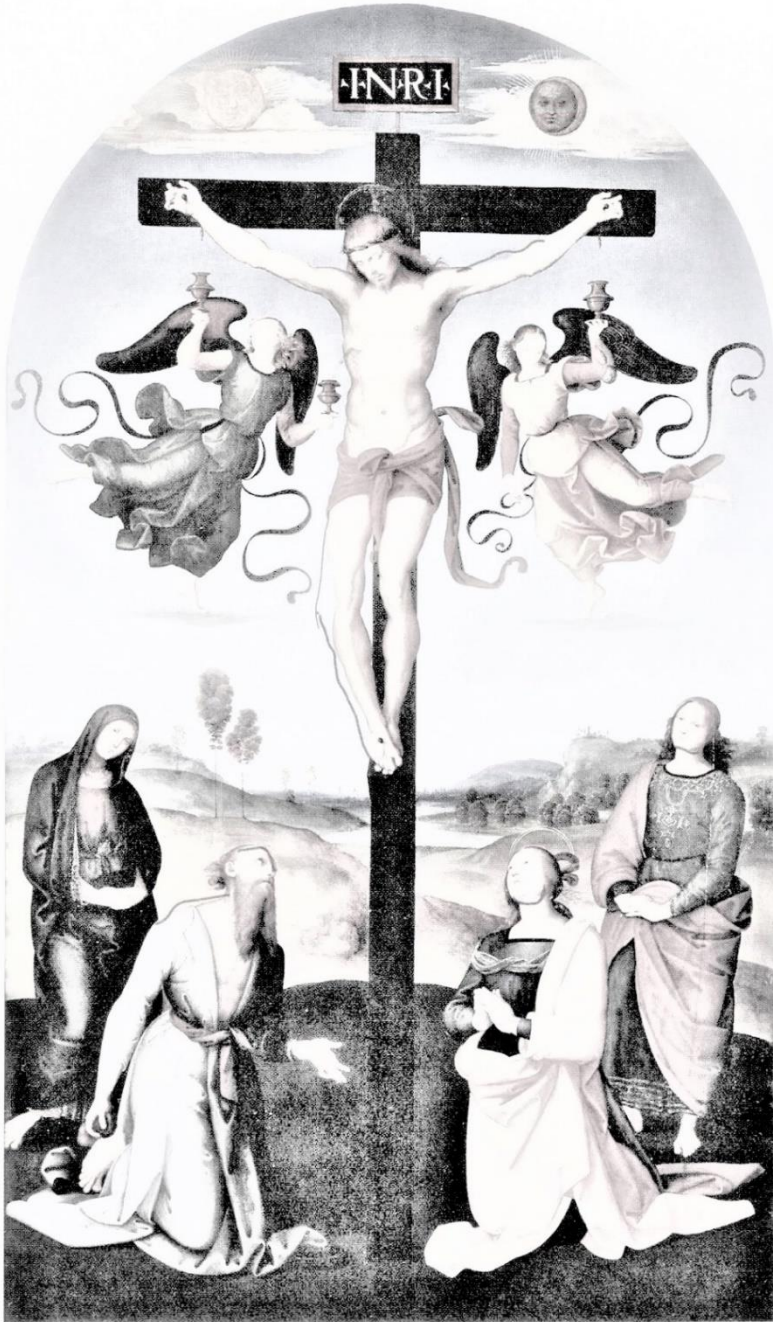
Q: Kings have thrones. What was Jesus' throne? (A: His Cross.)

Q: Jesus wears a crown, He has a throne, and a kingdom. Where or what is His kingdom? (A: Heaven and earth – in fact the whole universe.)

Q: If we were to approach King Charles, we would bow or curtsy. How do we recognise that Jesus is our king when we come into the church? (A: We genuflect, that is, go down on one knee and make the Sign of the Cross].)

Q: When we make the Sign of the Cross, we are recognising that Jesus is our King. Let's slowly make it now and as we do, remember that Jesus is our King and His throne is the cross.

Colour in this picture of Jesus on the Cross – His throne



1. Look at the Cross Jesus is on – it joins heaven and earth, Finish colouring in the ground at the bottom of the cross. Jesus came to earth to help us get to heaven.
2. The sky is blue – the colour of the "heavens" – this is also part of Jesus' kingdom. Colour in the sky blue and think about everything that is so beautiful that is under the sky.
3. The sun and moon are at the top of the picture – Jesus is king of the whole universe, including the sun and the moon.
4. All the figures are wearing some red (or pink) showing that they share in Jesus' death on the Cross, and so share in His
5. The earth is a very dark brown and the hills immediately behind the cross are bare and sandy. This shows that the world is full of sin. As you colour this in, think about the bad things that you have done and, in your heart, say sorry to Jesus on the cross.
6. The figure in the front left with the long beard is St. Jerome and He is kneeling in front of Jesus offering Himself to Him. As you colour his robes in grey, ask Jesus how you can be a better "king or queen" in our world.
7. St. Mary Magdalene is kneeling on right of the Cross and she was one of the first women to see Jesus after He rose from the dead. She told the disciples about Jesus. As you colour in her dress, ask Jesus to help you to tell other people about Him.
8. The angels are catching Jesus' blood in chalices. When do you see a chalice? As you colour in the angels, reflect on the fact that Jesus comes to us at every Mass.
9. The people standing are St. John and Mary. They are both looking out at us. St. John was the only disciple who stayed with Jesus at His crucifixion. Ask him to help us stay with Jesus in difficult times. Mary of course is Jesus' mother and prays for us. As you colour her in, pray a quiet Hail Mary, asking her to help us to love Jesus more and more each day.
10. Finally as you colour in Jesus, tell Him that you love Him because He is our True King.

Jesus Christ King of the Universe. Colour in Jesus on his throne, the Cross. (Photo from the Church of the Holy Cross, Florence)

