



Dear Parents and Carers,

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus is telling his Father in heaven that he has now completed what was asked of him. Then, Jesus prays for his friends. This reminds us that Jesus prays for all his friends, which includes you and me too.

This takes place after the last supper and, very soon, Jesus will be arrested. So before leaving his friends he is preparing them for the difficult time to come. Jesus wants his friends to stay united with one another and with God - forever.

Wednesday 17th May 2023

Friendship is one of life's great blessings and Jesus' friendship is also offered to each one of us. When we have good friendships, we can support each other, have fun together, and share our joys and challenges. We can also learn from each other and grow in our faith.

Enjoy a special time together hearing your child's thoughts about this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **FRIENDSHIP**.

Dom Henry Wansbrough



To see this week's Parish Version of The Wednesday Word: wednesdayword.org - Parents' Pages - Lectio Divina with Fr Henry.

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 24th May 2023



Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and prayed: 'Father, the hour has come: glorify your Son so that your Son may glorify you; and, let him give eternal life to all those you have entrusted to him. And eternal life is this: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I have glorified you on earth and finished the work that you gave me to do. I have made your name known to those you gave me. They were yours and you gave them to me, and they have obeyed your word. I have given them the teaching you gave to me, and they have truly accepted it. They know that I came from you and believed that it was you who sent me. I pray for them; for those you have given me, because they belong to you.'

Adapted from
John 17:1-11 (the 7th Sunday of Easter, Year A)

**Everyone can learn more about this Gospel
in Church - all are warmly invited.**

"Dear young people, Jesus wants to be your friend, and wants you to spread the joy of this friendship everywhere." Pope Francis

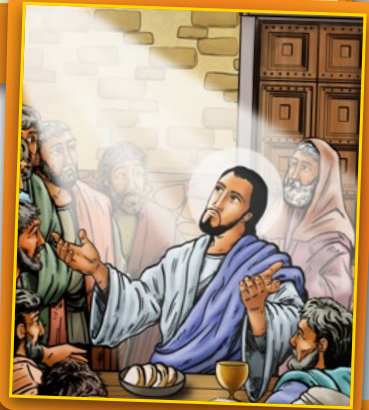


When we have good friendships, we feel happy and fulfilled because we know that we're loved and supported. Growing in friendship with Jesus helps us to know how much he loves us. This makes us happy and helps us to be kind and loving to others too.



1 Our Special Time Together

Enjoy reading the Gospel overleaf (or below for younger children)



One day, Jesus prayed to God in front of his friends, the disciples. He raised his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, I have made your name known to those you gave me. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. They believed that it was you who sent me and now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. I have given them the teaching you gave to me, and they have truly accepted it. I pray for them; for those you have given me, because they belong to you."

Who was Jesus praying for? Which words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? See the picture opposite. What does it make you think about?

2 Wednesday's Word is ...

FRIENDSHIP

3

Loving God & Each Other

"There is nothing on this earth more to be prized than true friendship."

St Thomas Aquinas

Jesus needed friends to help him with his mission, just like we need friends to help us in our daily lives. Through friendship, we can show that we are part of God's family, loving and working together to make the world a better place. Ask your child what the word 'friendship' means to them. Which friends do they spend the most time with? What is it that they like about them? Who is their best friend?

"Jesus' friendship with us is a priceless gift."

Pope Francis

As a family, name ways in which you can deepen your friendship with Jesus, who loves and supports us always. Perhaps it's through: reading the gospels; receiving the sacraments; sitting with Jesus in prayer, alone or with others. Share any stories of when you felt loved and supported by your friends and talk about the qualities that make a good friend (e.g. kindness, honesty, trust, loyalty). In what ways can we be a better friend to others this week - could you reach out to someone who may be feeling lonely? Which friends can you especially pray for at this time?

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for your **friendship** and for all our friends. Help us to choose our friends wisely and to become better friends to them. Amen.

Gospel Gallery

F A T H E R I L S V T N
J F G T T E A T K Y P V
E G I V E N F E G C R J
S T N T R Y G A E V A H
U L E E A I D C T D Y E
S L T A V K G H E E E A
N E I E C N F I R Y D V
E F N F X H F N N A I E
V L J H E A I G A R V N
A Z S U S E J N L P Q P
E O P G Y V G S G X Y J
H L I F E R E H T A F D

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER **ACROSS** OR **DOWN**



JESUS PRAYED



FATHER HEAVEN



GIVEN TEACHING



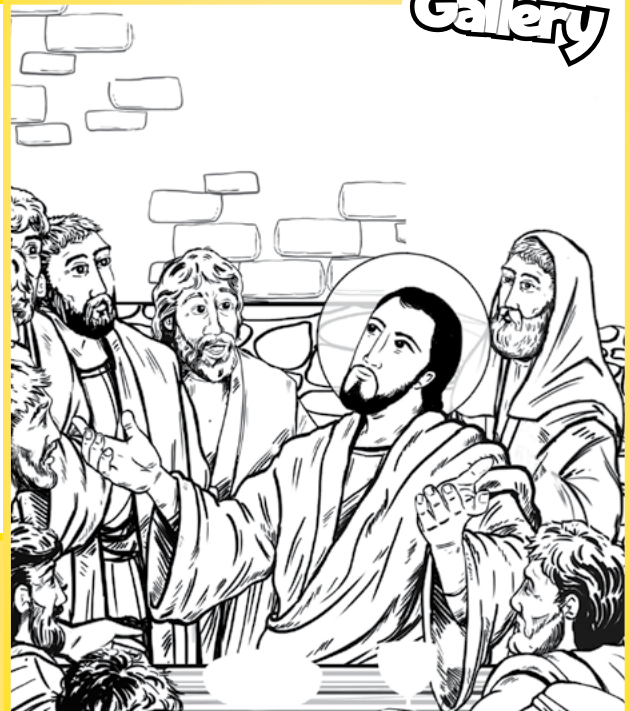
ETERNAL LIFE

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS **BACKWARDS** OR **DIAGONALLY**

Cross out the letters **o b r** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

o h a r v e b t o h e r m b t e r a c h b i n g o m o r e b

Jesus said, "I _____ given _____ the
_____ you gave to _____."



Search for at least three differences between this picture and the colour one. Then draw them in before colouring.

This week, don't forget the power of prayer!

Pray for your friends and family, and remember that many of them will be praying for you too.

Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to...

.....
.....

