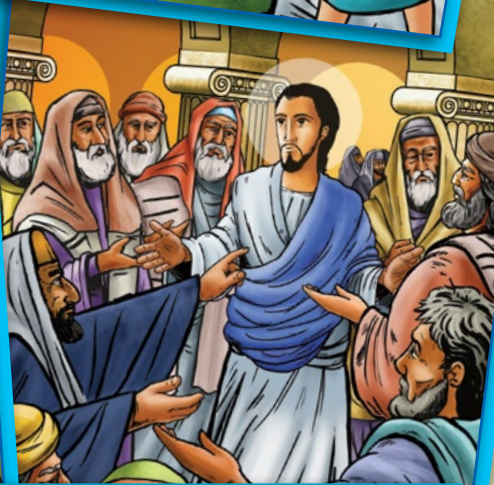


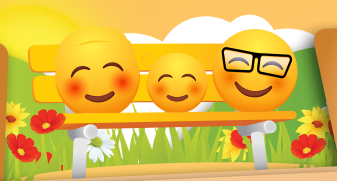
THE *Wednesday*
WORD

Summer Holidays 2024

SHARING SUNDAY'S GOSPEL



Connecting Home, School and Parish



1 Enjoy reading this Sunday's Gospel

Jesus had sent out his friends, the apostles, to teach and to heal. When they rejoined him, they told him all they had done and taught. Then Jesus said to them, "You must come away to some quiet place all by yourselves and rest for a while"; for there were so many coming and going that the apostles had no time even to eat. So they went off in a boat to a quiet place where they could be by themselves. But people saw them going, and many could guess where; and from every town they all hurried on foot to the place and reached it before them. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he set himself to teach them at some length.



Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 21st July 2024. Mark 6:30-34 (the 16th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B)

Which words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? What does the picture make you think about? Now explore this Wednesday's word, which is **HOLIDAYS**.



"The summertime offers many people an occasion for rest. It's also a favourable time to take care of our relationships."

Pope Francis

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus' friends, the apostles, returned after working hard. Why did Jesus take them away? Hard work, and sometimes stress, can often be part of our lives so we all need a holiday at some time - to rest and refresh ourselves. Jesus knows that work is essential but, in this Sunday's Gospel, he reminds us how important it is to take time out too. Ask your child what they like best about holidays. What was the best holiday that they've ever had? What made it so special for them? You might want to tell your child about the best holiday that you've ever had - and say why.

"Holidays offer a time to rest and to restore the spirit, especially through a more quiet reading of the gospels"

Pope Francis

Holiday time is a time to rest, and it also presents a great opportunity for us to explore and refresh our faith. The more we get to know Jesus, the more at peace and relaxed we become. Our homes are 'holy places' and simply spending some quiet time at home with God throughout the holidays can help us to become happy, holy and truly rested. The word holiday comes from Holy-day. Each of you say how you could make these summer holidays into holy-days. Why not end tonight's special Family Time, and each night throughout the coming summer holidays, by saying the Lord's Prayer together (please see below) or another favourite family prayer? Blessings and best wishes for a great summer break.

3 Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

WEDNESDAY
WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER ACROSS OR DOWN

- APOSTLES
- BUSY
- COME AWAY
- QUIET PLACE
- REST THEMSELVES

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS BACKWARDS OR DIAGONALLY

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

Cross out the letters
b i m k
in the 4 jumbled
words to find
4 real words.

quibkent yokurselbmves krestm bamwaky
"You must come _____ to some _____ place all
by _____ and _____ for a while."



1 Enjoy reading the Gospel

Jesus saw crowds of people approaching and he said to Philip, "Where can we buy some bread for these people to eat?" He only said this to test Philip; he himself knew exactly what he was going to do. Philip answered, "Two hundred denarii would only buy enough to give them a small piece each." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said, "There is a small boy here with five loaves and two fish; but what is that between so many?" Jesus said to them, "Make the people sit down." There was plenty of grass there, and as many as five thousand sat down. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and gave them out to all who were sitting ready; he then did the same with the fish, giving out as much as was wanted until everyone was fed.



Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 28th July 2024. John 6:1-15 (the 17th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B)

Which words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? What does the picture make you think about? Enjoy exploring this Wednesday's word, which is **HELP**.

2

"Do not stop asking, in prayer, for the Lord's help."

Pope Francis

Why couldn't the disciples feed the people? What did Jesus do to help the people?

The gathering in this Sunday's Gospel wasn't just a huge, miraculous, open-air picnic. This was a sign of the Eucharist (or Holy Communion) which Jesus would establish with his disciples at the Last Supper. The Gospel reminds us of the tremendous help that Jesus offers to all people, the help we often experience through the actions of the people around us. Ask your child who has helped them recently. What did that person do that was such a help? You may want to share an experience of being helped by your children or other people and describe the difference that this help made to your life.

3

Jesus still helps us today, and he calls us to help those who are most in need. Each of you give an example of where or when you feel Jesus' help. Perhaps it is through: the love of your family and your friends; help from others; spending time with Jesus in prayer at home; going to church and receiving Holy Communion. Talk about an occasion when you went out of your way to help someone. What did you do to help? Is there anyone who may need your help right now? What will you do to help?



Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for your love and help. Please help us to see the needs of others, and give us a growing desire to help others. Amen.

Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to...

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1 Enjoy reading the Gospel

Jesus said, "Do not work for food that cannot last, but work for food that endures to eternal life, the kind of food the Son of Man is offering you; for on him, the Father, God himself, has set his seal." Then the people said, "What sign will you give to show us that we should believe in you? What work will you do? Our fathers had manna (miraculous food) to eat when they were with Moses in the desert; as scripture says: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" Jesus answered, "I tell you most solemnly, it was not Moses who gave you bread from heaven; it is my Father who gives you the bread from heaven, the true bread; for the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." "Sir," they said, "give us that bread always." Jesus answered, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry; whoever believes in me will never thirst."



Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 4th August 2024. John 6:24-35 (the 18th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B)

Which words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? What does the picture make you think about? Enjoy exploring this Wednesday's word, which is **NOURISH**.

2

"Jesus is the Bread of Life for our families. Let us be united to Jesus, nourished by daily prayer, by listening to the Word of God, and by sharing in the Sacraments." Pope Francis

What did Jesus call himself? To nourish means to feed and help grow. In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus is offering to nourish us. Jesus continues to nourish us through the Church today. He offers us eternal life through the gift of himself which we receive in Holy Communion. Ask your child what the word 'nourish' means to them. Then, each of you talk about something, other than food, that nourishes you and helps you grow. Perhaps it is: a special friendship, being praised, praying, your faith, the love and care you receive. Who gives you these things?

3

With Jesus' love we will always be nourished. Just as we eat bread to nourish our bodies, Jesus (in Holy Communion) nourishes our souls - to help us to keep growing in goodness and love. Who else should we remember to thank for nourishing us? Perhaps parents, carers, teachers, priests, grandparents or friends. Which people can we nourish in this coming week and how can we nourish them? Perhaps we can: encourage someone; give hugs to parents or carers; give something to a food bank; help and offer hope to others.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread ...

Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to...

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1 Enjoy reading the Gospel

The people of Israel were complaining to each other about Jesus, because he had said, 'I am the bread that came down from heaven.' 'Surely this is Jesus, son of Joseph,' they said. 'We know his father and mother. How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven?'" Jesus said in reply, "Stop complaining to each other. No one can come to me unless he is drawn by the Father who sent me, and I will raise him up at the last day. I tell you most solemnly, everybody who believes has everlasting life."



Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 11th August 2024. John 6:41-51 (the 19th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B)

Which words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? What does the picture make you think about? Enjoy exploring this Wednesday's word, which is **HEAVEN**.

2 "We believe that there is another life because we have already begun to feel it here." Pope Francis

Where did Jesus say that he came down from? For almost 2000 years, Christians have been joyfully celebrating Jesus' resurrection (his life beyond death) and his return to heaven. Jesus' resurrection assures us that he is close to us now, that heaven exists, and that everlasting happiness in the life to come with God and each other can be our hope too. In the Bible, heaven is described in many ways. It is likened to a city, a beautiful garden, a kingdom and a place of great beauty and happiness. Ask your child what the word 'heaven' means to them. Ask them what they think heaven is like. It may help your child to tell them some of your own thoughts about heaven.

3 The Catholic Church assures us that there are people already living joyfully in heaven. We were created for heaven: to live in complete harmony and happiness with God and each other – forever! Until that time, we can pray for all our loved ones who have left this world, that they may be blessed with all the joys of heaven. Why not end tonight's special Family Time by saying the traditional Catholic prayer (below) for loved ones who have left this world? Then come along to church this Sunday to light a candle for them – all are warmly invited.

Thinking about **heaven**: Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to ...

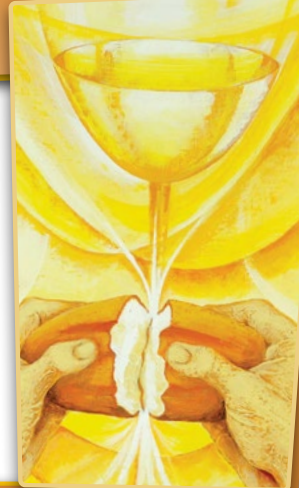
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1 Enjoy reading the Gospel

Jesus said, "I am the living bread which has come down from heaven. Those who eat this bread will live forever. Those who eat this bread have eternal life now. They live in me and I live in them, and I will raise them up on the last day. The bread I give is my life, which I give to be the life of the world. It is not like the bread which our ancestors once ate in the desert – they died; but those who eat this bread will live forever."



Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 18th August 2024 – John 6:51-58 (the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B)

Which words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? What does the picture make you think about? Enjoy exploring this Wednesday's words, which are **HOLY COMMUNION**.

2 "Holy Communion is a gift of Christ, who makes himself present and gathers us around him, to nourish us with his Word and with his life." Pope Francis

In this Sunday's Gospel, how did Jesus describe himself? At Mass the priest calls upon the Holy Spirit to change the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus. Holy Communion is a sacred moment when we receive a gift from heaven – we receive Jesus. Ask your child what they know about Holy Communion. What has your child learnt at school about Holy Communion? If you are a practising Catholic, you may like to tell your child what it means for you to receive Jesus at Holy Communion. Look at the artist's picture above. What can you see? What does it make you think about?

3 When we celebrate Mass, we take part in the Last Supper, just as though we were actually there. Jesus is always with us but he is especially present in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Taking part in Holy Communion strengthens us and helps us come closer to Jesus and closer to each other. It is a good way for us to show our love for God. Why not end tonight's special Family Time by asking God to increase the family's faith in Jesus' presence in the Eucharist (Holy Communion)? Then come along to church to celebrate this Sunday – all are warmly invited.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread

Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to ...

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1 Enjoy reading the Gospel

After hearing Jesus' teaching about the Bread of Life, many of his followers said that this teaching was too hard for anyone to accept. But Jesus said, "The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. But there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, "This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless it is granted by the Father." After this, many of his disciples drew back and no longer went with him. Then Jesus said to the Twelve, "What about you, do you want to go away too?" Simon Peter answered, "Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God."



Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 25th August 2024. John 6:60-69 (the 21st Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B)

Which words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? What does the picture make you think about? Enjoy exploring this Wednesday's word, which is **LOYALTY**.

2

"We understand that loyalty to God is a matter of loyalty to a person to whom we are bound to walk together on the same road. And this person is Jesus." Pope Francis

In this Sunday's Gospel, some people found it too hard to follow Jesus and accept his claims. What did Peter call Jesus? This Sunday's Gospel reminds us that, to be Jesus' friends, we must put our loyalty to him before anything else in our life. Through this Gospel, Jesus is encouraging the disciples (and us too) to be loyal to him - to give him first place in our lives. Even if we choose to be loyal, we need God's help and the help of the Church to stay loyal. Ask your child what the word 'loyalty' means to them. Who stands out to them as being a loyal friend? What makes a loyal friend?

3

To be loyal is to be faithful, reliable, supportive and trustworthy - to keep promises and stand up for the truth. Jesus offers to be our loyal friend and invites us to be his. How especially can we show our loyalty to Jesus in these final weeks of the school holidays? Perhaps we can: meet regularly with Jesus and listen to him through daily prayer; follow Jesus' teachings; be self-giving - always trying to put others' needs before our own; try to forgive others in the same way that Jesus forgives us.

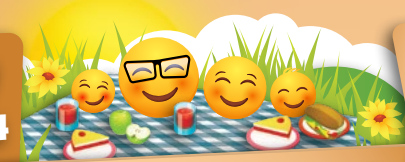


Dear Lord Jesus, help us to grow in our **loyalty** to you. May our **loyalty** to you encourage others to become your loyal followers too. Amen.

Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to...

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1 Enjoy reading the Gospel

Some of the scribes and the Pharisees, who were teachers among the people of Israel, came from Jerusalem and gathered round Jesus. They noticed that some of Jesus' disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without ritually washing them. So these Pharisees and scribes asked Jesus, "Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders, but eat their food with ritually unclean hands?" So Jesus said, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand. No food that goes into anyone from outside can make that person unclean before God; it is the things that come out of someone that make that person unclean. For it is from within, from people's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: theft, greed, deceit, envy, slander, pride. All these evil things come from within, and make a person unclean."



Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 1st September. Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 (the 22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time)

Which words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? What does the picture make you think about? Enjoy exploring this Wednesday's word, which is **HOLINESS**.

2

"Holiness doesn't mean doing extraordinary things, but doing ordinary things with love and faith." Pope Francis

Where did Jesus say that bad behaviour comes from? This Sunday's Gospel reminds us that what really matters to God are the good things which also come from deep within us, the kindness and the generosity and the love. The Pharisees thought that they were making themselves holy by making things clean on the outside. But Jesus reminded them that it's the attitudes behind our words and deeds that make us holy people. Ask your child what the word 'holiness' means to them. Who is the holiest person that they know? Who reminds them of Jesus? Who tries to live the way Jesus wants us to live?

3

To be holy is to be dedicated to God. God wants us to live holy lives - to try to live and love like Jesus did. Ask your child how they feel when they decide to do the right thing? How do they feel when they decide not to do the right thing? Decide on something to do, individually or together as a family, to make your home a holier place. Perhaps you can: be more tolerant and understanding; share more with brothers, sisters or friends; be more compassionate and generous with people in need; regularly say your prayers together and ask God to help you to grow in holiness.



Dear Lord Jesus, please help us to us to grow in **holiness** each and every day. Help us to live like you and so make our home a **holy** place. Amen.

Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to...

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Wednesday
4th September



**Good News
for Families**

1 Enjoy reading this Sunday's Gospel

While Jesus was travelling towards the Sea of Galilee, they brought him a deaf man who could hardly talk; and they asked Jesus to lay his hand on him. Jesus took the man away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then, looking up to heaven, Jesus sighed and said to him, "Be opened." At once the man could hear and he could speak clearly too. And Jesus ordered the people to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they told everyone about it. "He has done all things well," they said. "He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak."



Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 8th September. Mark 7:31-37 (the 23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B)

Which words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? What does the picture make you think about? Now enjoy exploring this Wednesday's word, which is **HEALING**.



2

Wednesday's Word

HEALING



"God grants us his love, which saves us, heals us and gives us strength." Pope Francis

Why do you think the people asked Jesus to lay his hand on the deaf man? This Sunday's Gospel reminds us how, in Jesus, God is active in the world, bringing healing. At differing times and in differing ways, we all need the healing touch of Jesus. Ask your child what the word 'healing' means to them. It may help your child if you tell them about the different kinds of healing we can experience in life. Then ask your child who brings healing to them, bringing comfort when they are ill, hurt or upset.

God still heals today, particularly through other people - doctors, nurses and, if we let him, through us too.

We can hurt people by unkind words, by a look or by refusing to speak to them. But we can heal people by a smile, by a greeting or even by asking for their forgiveness or offering them ours. Consider if there is anyone to whom you can help bring God's healing. What could you do? Perhaps you can: pray for someone; talk gently and lovingly to someone if there is a problem; give the gift of a smile; take time to listen carefully to other people, and try to support them where possible. Can you think of any good ways to bring healing to others?

3

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for the **healing** you bring to our lives. Please help us to share your **healing** love with all those around us. Amen.

**WEDNESDAY
WORDSEARCH**

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

- CROWD**
- JESUS**
- DEAF**
- MAN**
- HEAVEN**
- HEALED**
- HEAR**
- SPEAK**

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

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | J | B | R | D | W | D | E | A | F | M | J |
| V | E | A | X | E | U | Q | C | V | V | V | F |
| Y | E | F | S | L | B | H | E | A | V | E | N |
| H | J | H | H | A | D | Q | V | G | W | Q | S |
| V | N | M | E | E | X | S | K | F | R | U | J |
| A | A | A | A | H | C | P | C | A | S | B | E |
| D | M | N | R | H | R | E | P | E | E | J | S |
| C | E | E | I | E | O | A | J | B | R | P | U |
| F | R | A | J | A | W | K | B | B | F | G | S |
| H | E | O | F | L | D | N | E | V | A | E | H |
| M | H | P | W | E | V | U | P | G | X | X | N |
| O | I | D | C | D | W | Z | N | F | N | H | A |

Cross out the letters
c t u
in the 4 jumbled words to find 4 real words.

copetuned ulotocking hetacvuen sacidut
Then, _____ up to _____, Jesus sighed and _____ to him, "Be _____."



DID YOU KNOW? One of the seven sacraments of the Catholic Church is called the 'Anointing of the Sick'. The priest anoints the sick person with holy oil, praying that God may help them. All sacraments remind us of God's love and care for each one of us. You can find out more from your local parish church.

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH



SUMMER SPECIAL

Find the Wednesday Words
in the Scripture Square

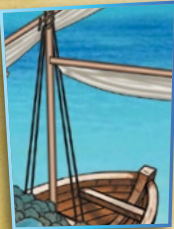
SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT
WORDS EITHER **ACROSS** OR **DOWN**

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | HOLIDAYS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | HELP | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> | LOYALTY | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | HOLINESS | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | HEALING | <input type="checkbox"/> |

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS
BACKWARDS OR **DIAGONALLY**

Now match each word
above to the correct
Gospel picture below

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



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