

# Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020 Good News for Families

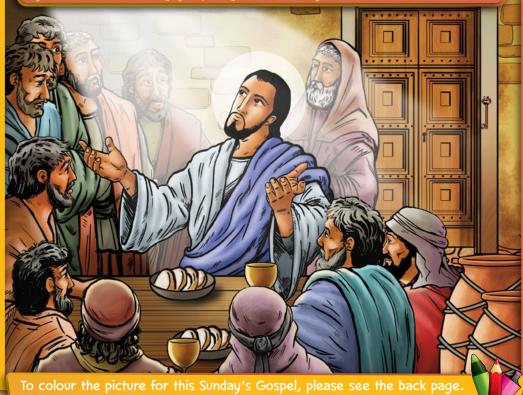


# Enjoy reading this Sunday's Gospel

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.

Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 24th May 2020. John 17:1-11 (the 7th Sunday of Easter, Year A)

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 FRIENDSHIP.



## Wednesday's Word FRIENDSHIP

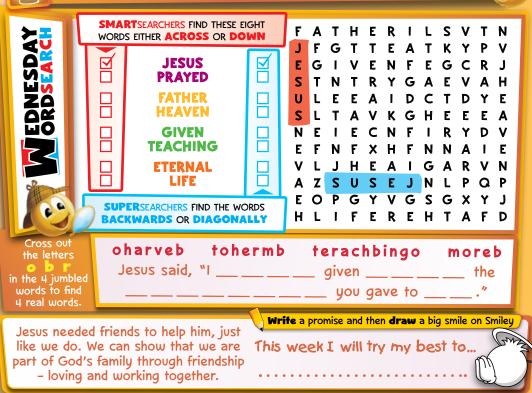
"Dear young people, Jesus wants to be your friend, and wants you to spread the joy of this friendship everywhere." Pope Francis

Who was Jesus praying to? 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, which reminds us that we belong to God too - he is our caring Father. 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. 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. Let's promote friendship and respect between people of different religious traditions." Pope Francis

Jesus' friendship is also offered to each one of us - for all time. As a family, name ways in which we can recognise and experience Jesus' friendship. Perhaps it's through: the love we receive from our families and others around us; reading the Gospel; receiving the sacraments; sitting with Jesus in prayer, alone or with others gathered together. Then, as a family, talk about the qualities that make a good friend (e.g. kindness, honesty, trust, loyalty, etc.). Which friends will you especially pray for at this time?

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



### Wednesday 27th May 2020



# Enjoy reading this Sunday's Gospel

In the evening, the disciples were gathered in a room. They had locked the doors because they were afraid of the people who had crucified Jesus. Jesus

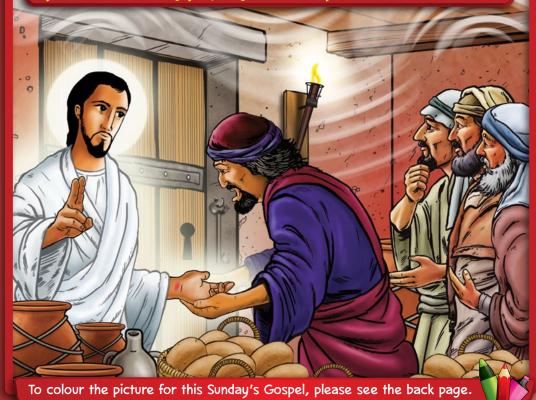
came and stood among them. "Peace be with you," he said to them. He showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord. "Peace be with you," Jesus said to them again. "As the Father has sent me, so I now send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them. "Receive the Holy Spirit," he said to them. "If you forgive the sins of anyone, then they are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."



Good News for Families

Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 31st May 2020. John 20:19-23 (Pentecost Sunday, Year A)

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 **PENTECOST**.



### Wednesday's Word PENTECOST

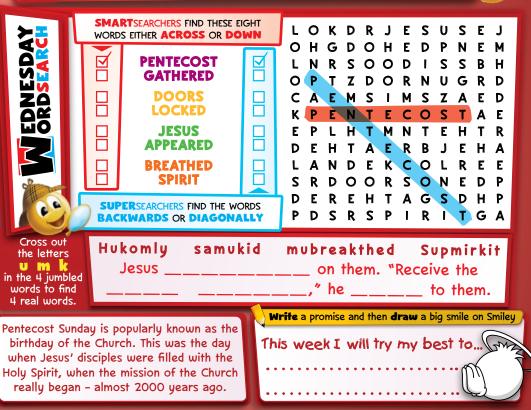
"May we be united to one another, by the power of love which the Holy Spirit pours into our hearts." Pope Francis

Why did Jesus breathe on the disciples? This coming Sunday the Church celebrates Pentecost. This is the feast of the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church - a gift which we now receive at Baptism, Confirmation and at Mass. Ask your child what they know about Pentecost. It may help your child if you tell them something that you know about Pentecost. The word 'Pentecost' means 'fiftieth day'. On this day (fifty days after Easter) the apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit.

#### "The extraordinary outpouring of Pentecost continues. The Holy Spirit transforms us and wants to transform the world." Pope Francis

Pentecost is not just a historical event. The Holy Spirit is alive and active today. Each of you choose one of the following qualities that you would like to ask the Holy Spirit for today: Courage, Joy, Peace, Patience, Gentleness, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness or Self-Control. Why did you choose that quality? In what ways could growing in that quality help you or help those around you? As the Church prepares to celebrate Pentecost Sunday, let's be open to receiving the many priceless gifts which the Holy Spirit offers to enrich our lives.

Simply repeating the words 'Come, Holy Spirit' is a great prayer to say at **Pentecost**, and also each day throughout the year.



#### Wednesday 3rd June 2020 Good News for Families

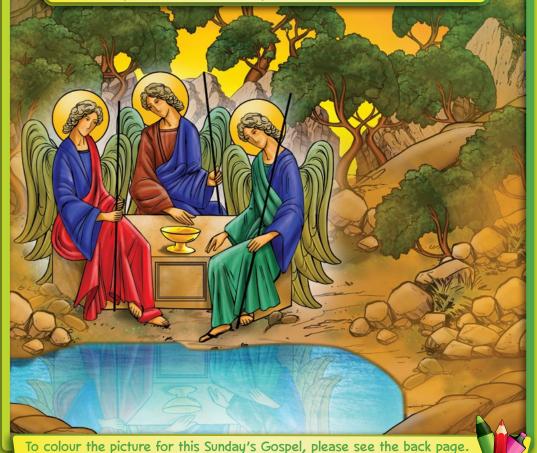
# Enjoy reading this Sunday's Gospel

One night, Nicodemus, a teacher of the law, came to speak with Jesus. Jesus said to Nicodemus, "God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world; he sent him to save the world, and no one who believes in him will be condemned."



Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 7th June 2020. John 3:16-18 (Trinity Sunday, Year A)

Which word or words stood out for you in this Sunday's Gospel, and why? Now enjoy exploring this Wednesday's words, which are **HOLY TRINITY**.



## 2 Wednesday's Words HOLY TRINITY

"The Trinity is Father, Son and Spirit of love. God is a communion of love and the family is its living reflection." Pope Francis

Why did God send Jesus into the world? This coming Sunday, the Church celebrates the great feast of The Most Holy Trinity (as represented in this week's picture). The Gospel gives us an insight into God's true nature, which is one of love. We read that God loves us so much that he gave his only Son for us, so that we can share in the life and loving relationship of the Holy Trinity – forever. Ask your child what the words 'Holy Trinity' mean to them. It may help your child if you tell them something that you know about the Holy Trinity.

#### "Every time that we make the sign of the cross, we draw closer to the great mystery of the Holy Trinity." Pope Francis

Language can never fully explain the mystery of God which is beyond our total understanding. However, we remember the Trinity each time we bless ourselves with the sign of the cross - a reminder that God is always with us, wherever we are. Ask your child if they know the words that complete this blessing: "In the name of the Father, and of the..."? Loving families are also a communion of persons. Each of you choose a way in which you can reflect the joyful love and togetherness of the Holy Trinity in your family relationships this week.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

