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Wednesday 18th October

Enjoy reading this Sunday's Gospel

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for familie

Some of the leaders of the people tried to trap Jesus and get him into trouble. So they sent some of their followers who said to him, "Teacher, we know that you are an honest man and teach God's way with honesty. We also know that you are not afraid of anybody: someone's rank means nothing to you. Then they asked him, "Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar, the Emperor?" Knowing what they were up to, Jesus said, "Why are you trying to trap me? Show me the coin you use to pay taxes." They handed him a coin. He said to them, "Whose head is on this coin, and whose name?" "Caesar's," they replied. "So then," he said to them, "give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God."

From the Gospel of 22nd October 2023 Cf. Matthew 22:15-21 (the 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

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 **GRATITUDE**.



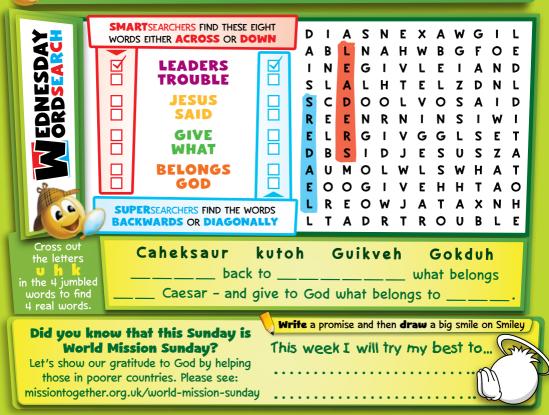
"The heart that knows how to say 'thank you' is a good heart, it is a heart that is content." Pope Francis

This Sunday's Gospel reminds us how we can live happier lives by giving God what is due to him - our gratitude! Being grateful to God puts us in the right frame of mind. It is good for our well-being and helps us to be happy in life. Ask your child what the word 'gratitude' means to them. You may want to help your child understand what the word 'gratitude' means to you. Can your child remember a time when they felt really grateful to someone? How did they show their gratitude to that person? Each of you name one or two things (as well as your family) that you are most grateful to God for.

"In all created things recognise the care and wisdom of God, and give him thanks." St Teresa of Avila

Saying 'thank you' to God (at anytime throughout the day) is a great way for us to show our gratitude. It is good for us to be grateful to God for the blessings of his love, for our lives, our talents, our families, our school and for the love of those around us. How do we show God that we are grateful? Who else will you remember to show gratitude to in these coming weeks? Perhaps a parent or carer, a family member, a teacher or a friend. How will you do this (e.g. with kind words, a thank you note, a prayer, a gift, or by offering help)?

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for blessing us in so many ways. Help us to be always grateful to you and to show our gratitude by loving those around us. Amen.



Wednesday 25th October

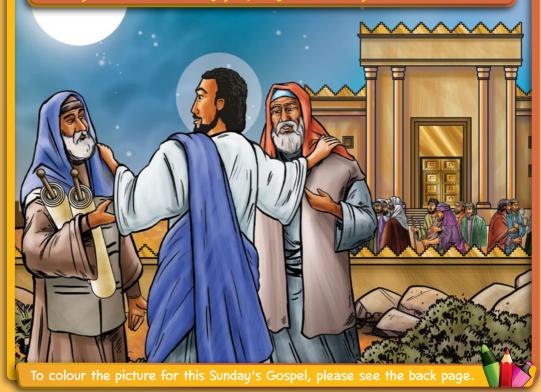
Enjoy reading this Sunday's Gospel

Good News for Families

Some of the leaders gathered together. One of the leaders was an expert in the Law and he asked Jesus a question to try and catch him out. "Teacher," he said, "which is the greatest commandment in God's Law?" Jesus replied, "'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and the first commandment. But there is a second commandment like it, that is: 'You must love your neighbour as yourself.' All the teaching of the Law and the Prophets follows from these two commandments."

From the Gospel of 29th October 2023 Cf. Matthew 22:34-40 (the 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

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 LOVE.





"They who are filled with love are filled with God himself."

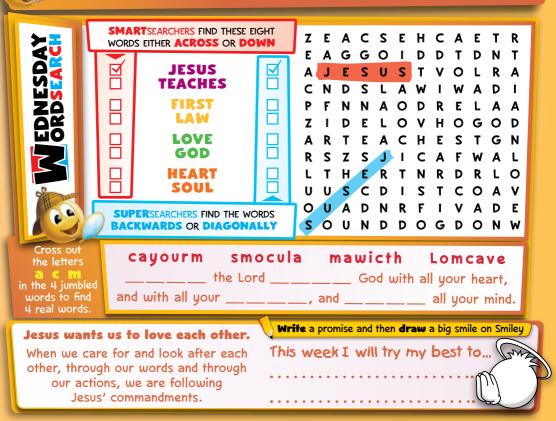
St Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa)

What did Jesus say was the greatest commandment? Loving God first, with all our heart, helps us to be more loving to one another. Is Jesus asking the impossible when he says that we should love others as we love ourselves? Each of you say what you think it means to love like this. Perhaps it is: being more patient, tolerant and understanding; forgiving others; treating people as your equal - treating them the way you would like to be treated yourself. Ask your child who they know that loves like this. By loving others as we love ourselves, we experience the harmony and peace which comes from following the greatest commandment in God's Law - to love.

"It is not enough to say 'I love.' We must put that love into a living action." St Teresa of Calcutta

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus reminds us that our love for God is also made known through the way that we love others. Whenever we love and care for one another we can be sure that God is with us. Each of you choose a special way in which you will show your love for God and for each other at home this week. Perhaps you can: show and tell family members how much you love them through unexpected acts of kindness; be peacemakers; pray for others, particularly anyone whom you may find difficult to like; look for a chance to help a teacher or a friend at school.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to love others as we love ourselves. Please help us to see that other people have needs too, and to love you through loving them. Amen.



Wednesday 1st November

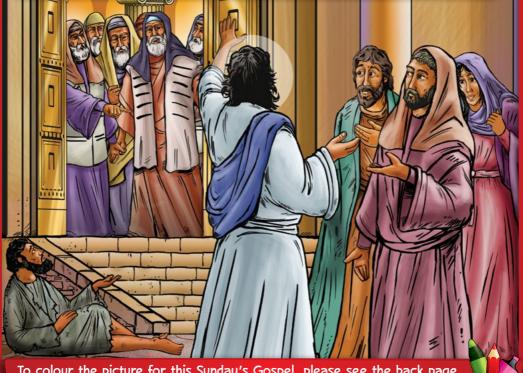
Enjoy reading this Sunday's Gospel

Good News for Families

One day, Jesus said to the crowds and his disciples, "The teachers of the law and the Pharisees are experts in the law of Moses. So, you should do what they tell you to do and listen to what they say. But do not copy what they do, because they do not practise what they preach; they don't do what they teach other people to do. They love to have people pay special attention to them and to be called 'teacher'. But do not copy them. Do not call each other teacher. You are all like brothers and sisters and there is only one teacher, the Christ. The one who is greatest among you should be the servant of others. If you put yourself above others, you will be humbled, but if you humble yourself, God will make you great."

From the Gospel of Sunday 5th November 2023 cf. Matt. 23:1-12 (the 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time)

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 HUMBLE.



"Being humble helps us share the problems of others. When we live humbly, God takes our small efforts and creates great things."

Pope Francis

What did Jesus say would happen to those who humble themselves? This Sunday's Gospel reminds us that God will reward those who are humble. Ask your child what the word 'humble' means to them. What makes a humble person? (Parent help - humble people do not boast and are honest about their weaknesses - they are not afraid to say 'sorry' to one another [or to God] when they are wrong. Humble people notice and praise other people's strengths and successes and remember to regularly give thanks to God for their own gifts). It may help your child if you talk about someone who you think is humble, and say why.

God is pleased with those who are humble. A humble person knows that all good comes from God and that any talents we have are gifts from God. There are many blessings in life – let's not just take them for granted. How can we grow in humility in the coming weeks? Perhaps we can: avoid boasting; recognise and praise other peoples' gifts; be happy about other peoples' achievements; say sorry to each other when we know we're wrong; say sorry to God if we have done wrong; remember to thank God for the many blessings in our lives. As a family, you might like to finish this evening's special time by thanking God together.



On this day the Church especially remembers all those who are already in heaven. To be inspired and find out more about the saints, just click on 'Saints Stories' in the children's section at **wednesdayword.org**



