

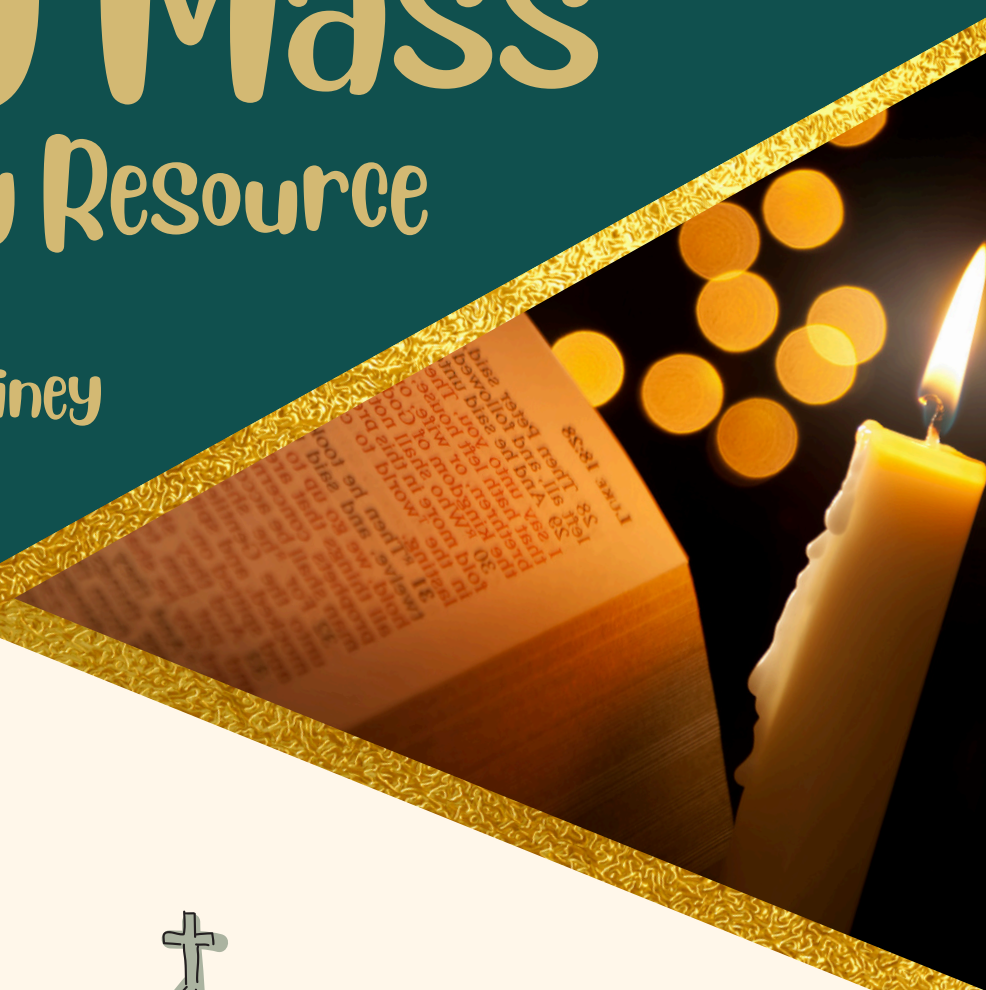
Family Mass

Planning Resource

Avoca & Templerainey
Masses
2025/2026



Archdiocese of Dublin
THE OFFICE FOR MISSION AND MINISTRY





Parish Family Mass Dates 2025-2026:

- 18th/19th October - 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time C
- 14th December - 3rd Sunday of Advent A
- 15th February - 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time A
- 15th March - 4th Sunday of Lent A
- 18th/19th April - 3rd Sunday of Easter A



Preparation Planning Team Details

Contact Name	Contact Details

Getting Involved

When	What	Who
Before Mass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greeting - volunteer to give out leaflets at the door • Welcome note before Mass starts • Practice music - option 	
Entrance Procession	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processional Cross • Holy Water • Book of Gospels • Music 	•
First Reading Psalm	Read - parent and/or child	• •
Gospel Homily	Read	
Prayers of the Faithful	Read - children Parent to help with movement/mic	• • • • •
Offertory	Family to bring up Gifts and people incensed - option	
Eucharistic Prayer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay in the seats for the moment • Our Father - w/actions 	
Communion	All children invited for a blessing (if they have not received 1 st Eucharist yet) & all those who wish for a blessing	
Refreshments	After Mass	

29th Sunday OTB

Welcome Note:

Welcome to our Family Mass. At Mass this weekend we mark the 29th Sunday of Ordinary Time. This is our second Family Mass to continue our journey of faith. Today, we enrol to show that we are on a journey where we will meet Jesus in a special way as we celebrate the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Communion and Confirmation in the parish.



First Reading: Exodus 17:8-13

A reading from the book of Exodus

The Amalekites came and attacked Israel at Rephidim. Moses said to Joshua, 'Pick out men for yourself, and tomorrow morning march out to engage Amalek. I, meanwhile, will stand on the hilltop, the staff of God in my hand.' Joshua did as Moses told him and marched out to engage Amalek, while Moses and Aaron and Hur went up to the top of the hill. As long as Moses kept his arms raised, Israel had the advantage; when he let his arms fall, the advantage went to Amalek. But Moses' arms grew heavy, so they took a stone and put it under him and on this he sat, Aaron and Hur supporting his arms, one on one side, one on the other; and his arms remained firm till sunset. With the edge of the sword Joshua cut down Amalek and his people.

The Word of the Lord

29th Sunday OTB

Psalm 120(121)

**Our response to the psalm is: Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.**

Response: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

I lift up my eyes to the mountains;
from where shall come my help?
My help shall come from the Lord
who made heaven and earth.

Response: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

May he never allow you to stumble!
Let him sleep not, your guard.
No, he sleeps not nor slumbers,
Israel's guard.

Response: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

The Lord is your guard and your shade;
at your right side he stands.
By day the sun shall not smite you
nor the moon in the night.

Response: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

The Lord will guard you from evil,
he will guard your soul.
The Lord will guard your going and coming
both now and for ever.

Response: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 3:14-4:2

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

You must keep to what you have been taught and know to be true; remember who your teachers were, and how, ever since you were a child, you have known the holy scriptures – from these you can learn the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and can profitably be used for teaching, for refuting error, for guiding people's lives and teaching them to be holy. This is how the man who is dedicated to God becomes fully equipped and ready for any good work.

Before God and before Christ Jesus who is to be judge of the living and the dead, I put this duty to you, in the name of his Appearing and of his kingdom: proclaim the message and, welcome or unwelcome, insist on it. Refute falsehood, correct error, call to obedience – but do all with patience and with the intention of teaching.

The Word of the Lord.



Gospel: Luke 18:1-8

Jesus told his disciples a parable about the need to pray continually and never lose heart. 'There was a judge in a certain town' he said 'who had neither fear of God nor respect for man. In the same town there was a widow who kept on coming to him and saying, "I want justice from you against my enemy!" For a long time he refused, but at last he said to himself, "Maybe I have neither fear of God nor respect for man, but since she keeps pestering me I must give this widow her just rights, or she will persist in coming and worry me to death."'

And the Lord said 'You notice what the unjust judge has to say? Now will not God see justice done to his chosen who cry to him day and night even when he delays to help them? I promise you, he will see justice done to them, and done speedily. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find any faith on earth?'

Homily Point Suggestions

Never Give Up When You Pray

- Jesus tells us to keep praying and not lose heart— even if the answer takes time.

God Always Listens to Us

- Unlike the judge in the story, God is loving and kind— He hears every prayer we say.

Be Like the Woman Who Kept Asking

- She didn't stop asking for what was right. Jesus wants us to be strong and keep believing.

Prayer Brings Us Close to God

- When we talk to God every day, we build a friendship with Him.

God Wants Us to Trust Him

- Even when things are hard, we can trust that God is with us and will help us in the best way.

Prayer of the Faithful

We pray for those preparing to meet Jesus in a special way through Communion and Confirmation, that they and their families will be supported on this important journey.

Lord, hear us...

We pray for peace, that through discipleship with Jesus peace will spread across our troubled world.

Lord, hear us...

For all families in our parish and around the world, that they will come to know and love Jesus.

Lord, hear us...

We pray for Pope Leo and all our leaders, that together they may work towards a just world.

Lord, hear us...

For those who have died, that their families and friends may be comforted.

Lord, hear us...

For _____, that _____

Lord, hear us...



Faith @ Home

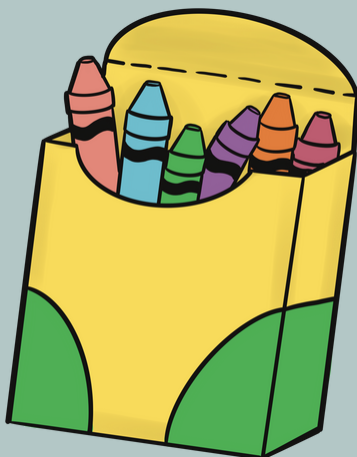
Take time to create your Sacred Space at home this month and add a few of the suggested items to it

Visit the 'Family Corner' of the Mission & Ministry Website and do some of the activities there: read a story, watch a video.

Visit the church & light a candle and say a prayer for someone you know.

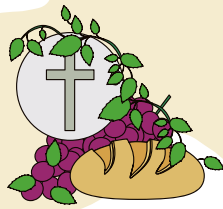


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Read through and sign the enrolment certificate. Hang it somewhere important in the house to show you are preparing this year.

SACRED SPACE



@ HOME



Enrolment
Certificate



Cloth/Scarf



Shoe Box

Photo of
Jesus



Candle





Reconciliation & Eucharist 2025-2026

I was very young when I was Baptised as a Christian. I am learning, at home and in school, what it means to be a young Christian today.

I want to take the next step of becoming more connected to Jesus by celebrating the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist for the First Time. I promise to do all that I can to be ready for this big moment in my life.

I wish to be enrolled to celebrate the Sacraments in the Parish of Avoca this coming year.

Signed *child*:

When we brought our child to the church for Baptism we promised to nourish and support their growth in Faith.

We commit ourselves to building up and strengthening their Faith in whatever way we can.

We will co-operate joyfully with our Parish and School in preparing for these Sacraments.

As we journey through this preparation together, we pray that we may come to a fuller understanding of God's blessings on us, and God's support in our efforts to hand on the Faith to our children.

Signed *parent/guardian*:





Confirmation 2025-2026

I was very young when I was Baptised as a Christian. I am learning, at home and in school, what it means to be a young Christian today.

I want to take the next step of becoming more connected to Jesus by celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation on my faith journey. I promise to do all that I can to be ready for this big moment in my life.

I wish to be enrolled to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Parish of Avoca this coming year.

Signed *child*:

When we brought our child to the church for Baptism we promised to nourish and support their growth in Faith.

We commit ourselves to building up and strengthening their Faith in whatever way we can.

We will co-operate joyfully with our Parish and School in preparing for this Sacrament.

As we journey through this preparation together, we pray that we may come to a fuller understanding of God's blessings on us, and God's support in our efforts to hand on the Faith to our children.

Signed *parent/guardian*:



Getting Involved

When	What	Who
Before Mass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greeting - volunteer to give out leaflets at the door • Welcome note before Mass starts • Practice music - option 	
Entrance Procession	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processional Cross • Holy Water • Book of Gospels • Advent Symbols • Music 	•
First Reading Psalm	Read - parent and/or child	• •
Gospel Homily	Read	
Prayers of the Faithful	Read - children Parent to help with movement/mic	• • • • • •
Offertory	Family to bring up Gifts and people incensed - option	
Eucharistic Prayer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay in the seats for the moment • Our Father - w/actions 	
Communion	All children invited for a blessing (if they have not received 1 st Eucharist yet) & all those who wish for a blessing	
Refreshments	After Mass	

3rd Sunday of Advent

Welcome Note:

Welcome to our Family Mass. At Mass this weekend we mark the Third Sunday of Advent. The Third Sunday of Advent is a reminder of the Joy that comes into our lives with the birth of Jesus at Christmas. We will also meet Jesus in a special way this year as we prepare for Communion and Confirmation. Today, we light the pink candle on our Advent wreath.

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6,10

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.
The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord,
the splendour of our God.
Strengthen all weary hands,
steady all trembling knees
and say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.
'Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.
They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy on their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.

The Word of the Lord

3rd Sunday of Advent

Psalm 145(146):6-10

Our Response to the Psalm is: Come, Lord, and save us.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free,

Response: Come, Lord, and save us.

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan.

Response: Come, Lord, and save us.

It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age.

Response: Come, Lord, and save us.

Second Reading: James 5: 7-10

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to James

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

3rd Sunday of Advent

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says:

'Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you.'

'I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

Homily Point Suggestions

Jesus Shows Who He Is by
What He Does

- Jesus helped the blind see, the sick get better, and the poor hear good news—His actions showed He was the Saviour.

God's Promises Come True

- Long ago, God promised to send someone special, and Jesus is that promise come true!

John the Baptist Helped People Get
Ready

- John was like a messenger, telling people, "Get your hearts ready—Jesus is coming!"

We Can Get Our Hearts
Ready Too

- We can prepare for Jesus by being kind, praying, and choosing to do what's right.

Even the Smallest Are Great in
God's Kingdom

- Jesus said that even the least person in God's kingdom is special—every child matters to God!

Prayer of the Faithful

We pray for those preparing to meet Jesus in a special way through Communion and Confirmation, that they and their families will be supported on this important journey.

Lord, hear us...

We pray for peace, that through discipleship with Jesus peace will spread across our troubled world.

Lord, hear us...

For all families in our parish and around the world, that they will come to know and love Jesus.

Lord, hear us...

We pray for Pope Leo and all our leaders, that together they may work towards a just world.

Lord, hear us...

For those who have died, that their families and friends may be comforted.

Lord, hear us...

For _____, that _____

Lord, hear us...



Log onto Netflix and watch the movie 'Angela's Christmas' together as a family

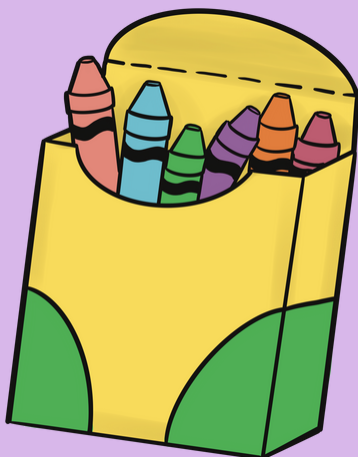
Advent @ Home

Visit the 'Family Corner' of the Mission & Ministry Website and do some of the activities there: read a story, watch a video.

Visit the church & light a candle and say a prayer for someone you know.



www.avocaparish.ie



Colour in the picture of the empty crib and place it in your Sacred Space at home to show you are waiting for Jesus to be born



Getting Involved

When	What	Who
Before Mass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greeting - volunteer to give out leaflets at the door • Welcome note before Mass starts • Practice music - option 	
Entrance Procession	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processional Cross • Holy Water • Book of Gospels • Music 	•
First Reading Psalm	Read - parent and/or child	• •
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Prayers of the Faithful	Read - children Parent to help with movement/mic	• • • • • •
Offertory	Family to bring up Gifts and people incensed - option	
Eucharistic Prayer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay in the seats for the moment • Our Father - w/actions 	
Communion	All children invited for a blessing (if they have not received 1 st Eucharist yet) & all those who wish for a blessing	
Refreshments	After Mass	

6th Sunday OTA

Welcome Note:

Welcome to our Family Mass. At Mass this weekend we mark the 6th Sunday of Ordinary Time. We are almost at the time of preparation in the Church that is called Lent. Lent begins this Wednesday, with Ash Wednesday.



First Reading: Ecclesiasticus 15:16-21

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

If you wish, you can keep the commandments,
to behave faithfully is within your power.
He has set fire and water before you;
put out your hand to whichever you prefer.
Man has life and death before him;
whichever a man likes better will be given him.
For vast is the wisdom of the Lord;
he is almighty and all-seeing.
His eyes are on those who fear him,
he notes every action of man.
He never commanded anyone to be godless,
he has given no one permission to sin.

The Word of the Lord

6th Sunday OTA

Psalm 118(119):1-2,4-5,17-18,33-34

Our response to the psalm is: They are happy who follow God's law!

They are happy whose life is blameless,
who follow God's law!

They are happy who do his will,
seeking him with all their hearts.

Response: They are happy who follow God's law!

You have laid down your precepts
to be obeyed with care.

May my footsteps be firm
to obey your statutes.

Response: They are happy who follow God's law!

Bless your servant and I shall live
and obey your word.

Open my eyes that I may see
the wonders of your law.

Response: They are happy who follow God's law!

Teach me the demands of your statutes
and I will keep them to the end.

Train me to observe your law,
to keep it with my heart.

Response: They are happy who follow God's law!

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:6-10

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him. These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

The Word of the Lord.

6th Sunday OTA

Gospel: Matthew 5:17-37

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, not one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven.

'For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court; if a man calls his brother "Fool" he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him "Renegade" he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell.

'It has also been said: Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal. But I say this to you: everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all, either by heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

Homily Point Suggestions

Jesus Wants Us to Follow
God's Rules with Love
- It's not just about doing
the right thing, but doing it
with a kind and loving heart.

God's Laws Help Us Live
Happily Together
- Rules like "don't lie" or
"don't hurt others" help us be
safe, fair, and loving.

Jesus Came to Show Us How to Live
God's Way
- Jesus didn't erase the rules—He
showed us how to live them with love
and honesty.

What's in Our Heart Matters
Most
- Jesus teaches that what we
think and feel inside is just as
important as what we do.

Be Peaceful, Kind, and Honest
- Jesus wants us to say kind
words, be truthful, and make
peace with others—not just follow
rules, but live with love.

Prayer of the Faithful

We pray for those preparing to meet Jesus in a special way through Communion and Confirmation, that they and their families will be supported on this important journey.

Lord, hear us...

We pray for peace, that through discipleship with Jesus peace will spread across our troubled world.

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We pray for Pope Leo and all our leaders, that together they may work towards a just world.

Lord, hear us...

For those who have died, that their families and friends may be comforted.

Lord, hear us...

For _____, that _____

Lord, hear us...



Remember that Ash
Wednesday is
February 18th

Visit the
church & light a
candle and say
a prayer for
someone you
know.

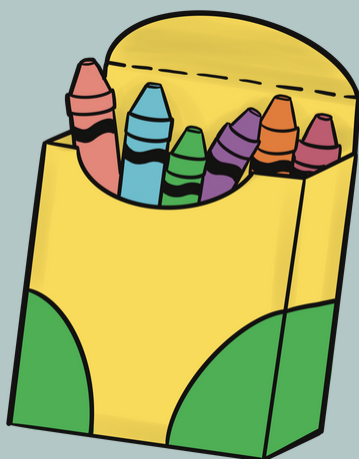


Faith @ Home

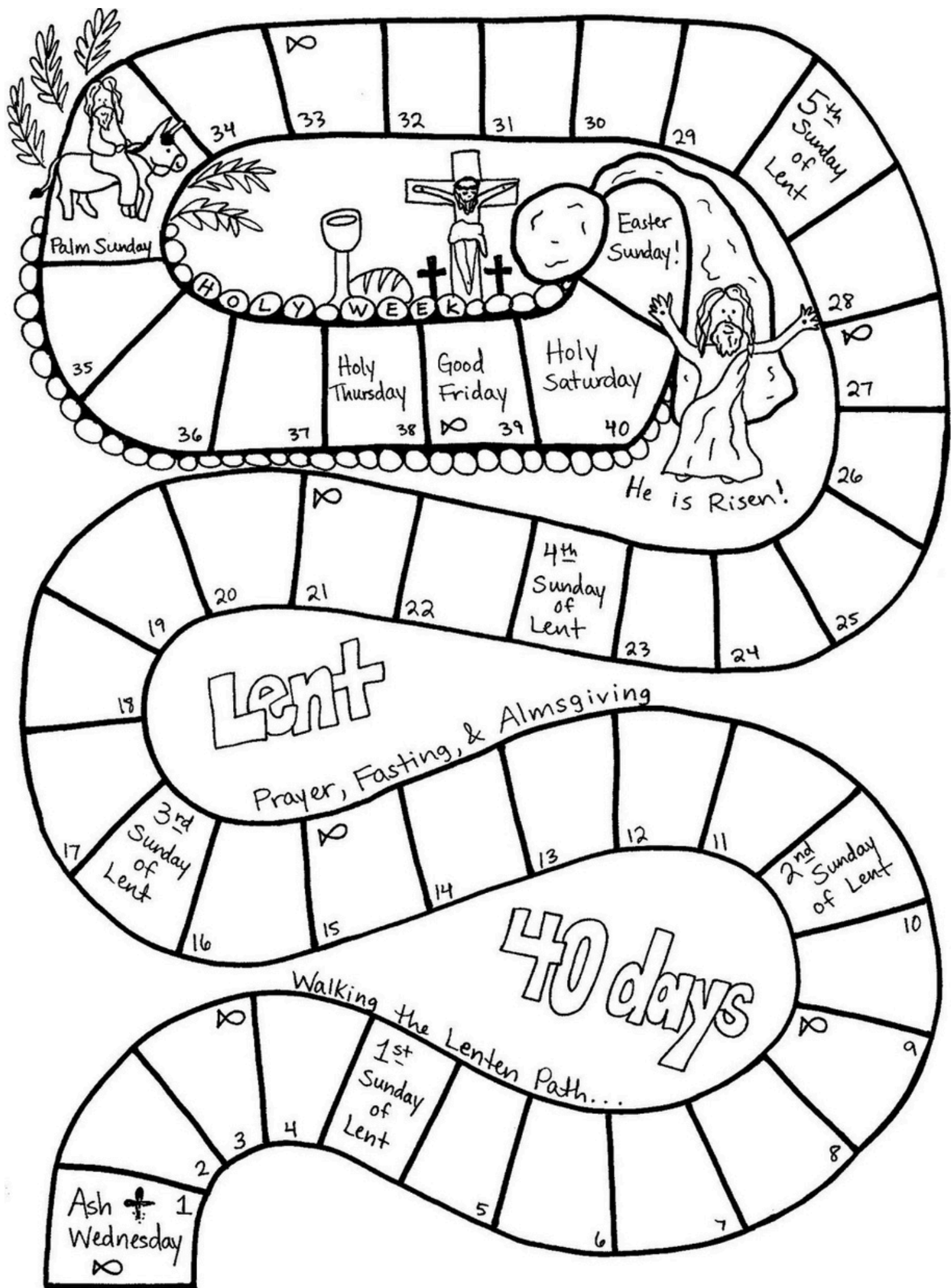
Visit the
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Website and do some
of the activities
there: read a story,
watch a video.



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Colour in the picture of the
Lenten Journey and place it
in your Sacred Space at
home.



Palm Sunday

HOLY WEEK

Easter Sunday!

He is Risen!

Lent

Prayer, Fasting, & Almsgiving

40 days

Walking the Lenten Path...

Ash Wednesday

1st Sunday of Lent

4th Sunday of Lent

Holy Thursday

Good Friday

Holy Saturday

5th Sunday of Lent

2nd Sunday of Lent

3rd Sunday of Lent

Getting Involved

When	What	Who
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Eucharistic Prayer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay in the seats for the moment • Our Father - w/actions 	
Communion	All children invited for a blessing (if they have not received 1 st Eucharist yet) & all those who wish for a blessing	
Refreshments	After Mass	

4th Sunday Lent A

Welcome Note:

Welcome to our Family Mass. At Mass this weekend we mark the 4th Sunday of Lent. We are most of the way through the season of Lent. We continue to take time during the season of Lent to reflect on our friendship with Jesus, especially as we prepare to meet Jesus in a special way in the Sacraments.



First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13

A reading from the Prophet Samuel

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him: God does not see as man sees: man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

The Word of the Lord

4th Sunday Lent A

Psalm 22(23)

**Our response to the psalm is: The Lord is my shepherd:
there is nothing I shall want.**

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit.

Response: The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.

He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort.

Response: The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.

Response: The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever.

Response: The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel: John 9:1,6-9,13-17,34-38

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man, and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

Homily Point Suggestions

Jesus Sees Us and Cares for Us

- Just like He saw the blind man, Jesus sees us and cares about our needs too.

Jesus Can Do Amazing Things

- He made a blind man see!
Jesus has the power to help and heal us in big and small ways.

We Can Trust Jesus Even When Others Don't Understand

- The blind man believed in Jesus, even when others questioned him or were unkind.

Saying "I Believe" Is Powerful

- The man said, "I believe, Lord."
We can say that too when we pray and follow Jesus.

Let's Use Our Eyes to See Good and Help Others

- Jesus opened the man's eyes; let's use our eyes to notice people who need help and be kind.

Prayer of the Faithful

We pray for those preparing to meet Jesus in a special way through Communion and Confirmation, that they and their families will be supported on this important journey.

Lord, hear us...

We pray for peace, that through discipleship with Jesus peace will spread across our troubled world.

Lord, hear us...

For all families in our parish and around the world, that they will come to know and love Jesus.

Lord, hear us...

We pray for Pope Leo and all our leaders, that together they may work towards a just world.

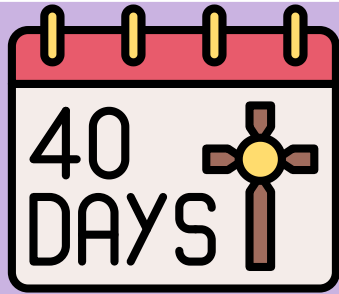
Lord, hear us...

For those who have died, that their families and friends may be comforted.

Lord, hear us...

For _____, that _____

Lord, hear us...



In the last weeks of Lent, pick one good deed to do at home, in school or for a charity

Visit the church & light a candle and say a prayer for someone you know.

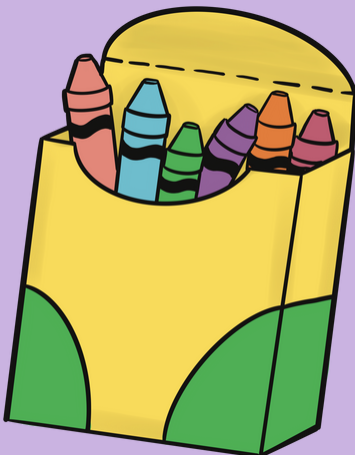


Faith @ Home

Visit the 'Family Corner' of the Mission & Ministry Website and do some of the activities there: read a story, watch a video.



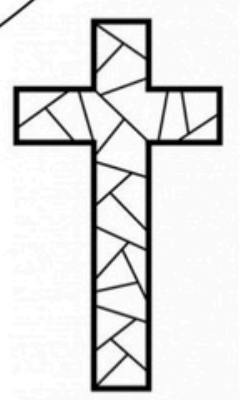
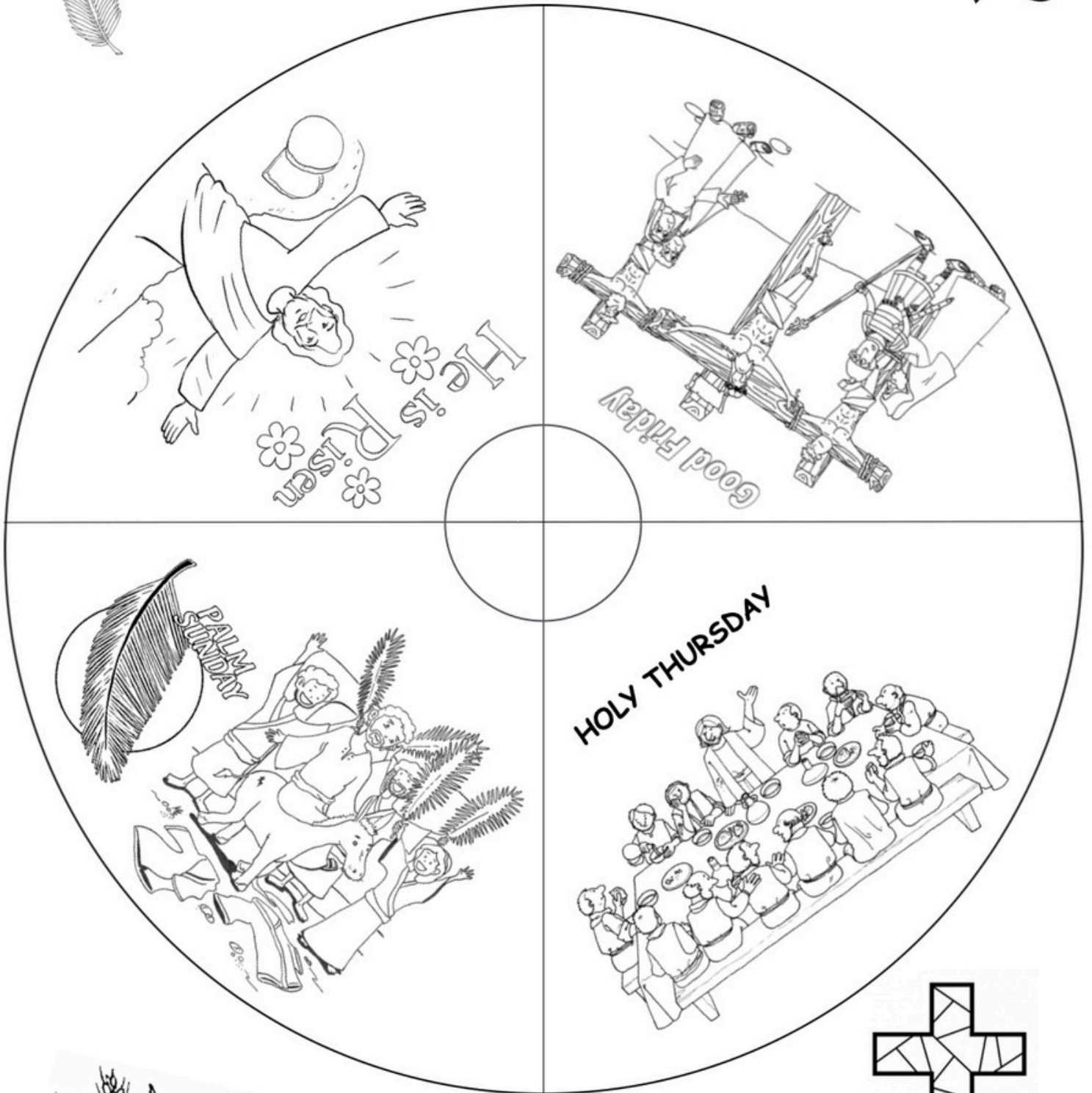
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Colour in the picture of Jesus restoring the sight of the blind man and place it in your Sacred Space at home.



HOLY WEEK



Getting Involved

When	What	Who
Before Mass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greeting - volunteer to give out leaflets at the door • Welcome note before Mass starts • Practice music - option 	
Entrance Procession	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processional Cross • Holy Water • Book of Gospels • Music 	•
First Reading Psalm	Read - parent and/or child	• •
Gospel Homily	Read	
Prayers of the Faithful	Read - children Parent to help with movement/mic	• • • • • •
Offertory	Family to bring up Gifts and people incensed - option	
Eucharistic Prayer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay in the seats for the moment • Our Father - w/actions 	
Communion	All children invited for a blessing (if they have not received 1 st Eucharist yet) & all those who wish for a blessing	
Refreshments	After Mass	

3rd Sunday of Easter A

Welcome Note:

Welcome to our Family Mass. At Mass this weekend we mark the 3rd Sunday of Easter. In our Gospel today we hear about the two disciples walking together on the Road to Emmaus when they encountered Jesus, but didn't realise it was him until he blessed, broke and shared the bread with them. We pray for all who will meet Jesus for the first time when they share in the bread of life.



First Reading: Acts 2:14,22-33

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him:

I saw the Lord before me always,
for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me.
So my heart was glad
and my tongue cried out with joy;
my body, too, will rest in the hope
that you will not abandon my soul to Hades
nor allow your holy one to experience corruption.
You have made known the way of life to me,
you will fill me with gladness through your presence.

The Word of the Lord

3rd Sunday of Easter A

‘Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. Now raised to the heights by God’s right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.’

The Word of the Lord

Psalm 15(16):1-2,5,7-11

Our response to the psalm is: Show us, Lord, the path of life.

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.

I say to the Lord: ‘You are my God.

O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;
it is you yourself who are my prize.’

Response: Show us, Lord, the path of life.

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,
who even at night directs my heart.

I keep the Lord ever in my sight:
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm.

Response: Show us, Lord, the path of life.

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
even my body shall rest in safety.

For you will not leave my soul among the dead,
nor let your beloved know decay.

Response: Show us, Lord, the path of life.

You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand happiness for ever.

Response: Show us, Lord, the path of life.

3rd Sunday of Easter A

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:17-21

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to Peter

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God.

The Word of the Lord.



Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'

3rd Sunday of Easter A

Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

Homily Point Suggestions

Jesus Walks With Us

- Just like He walked with the two disciples, Jesus is always close to us, even when we don't see Him.

Jesus Talks to Us Through the Bible

- When we read or hear stories from the Bible, it's like Jesus is talking to our hearts.

We Can Meet Jesus at Mass

- Just like the disciples recognised Jesus in the breaking of the bread, we meet Him in the Eucharist.

Open Your Eyes and Heart to Jesus

- Sometimes we don't notice Jesus right away, but He is always near—especially when we pray or help others.

Share the Good News Like the Disciples

- When the disciples knew Jesus was alive, they ran to tell others—we can do the same by sharing love and joy.

Prayer of the Faithful

We pray for those preparing to meet Jesus in a special way through Communion and Confirmation, that they and their families will be supported on this important journey.

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Log onto YouTube and watch videos in the 'Brother Francis' or 'Saddleback Kids' series

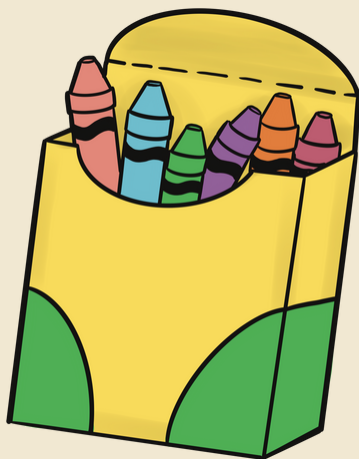
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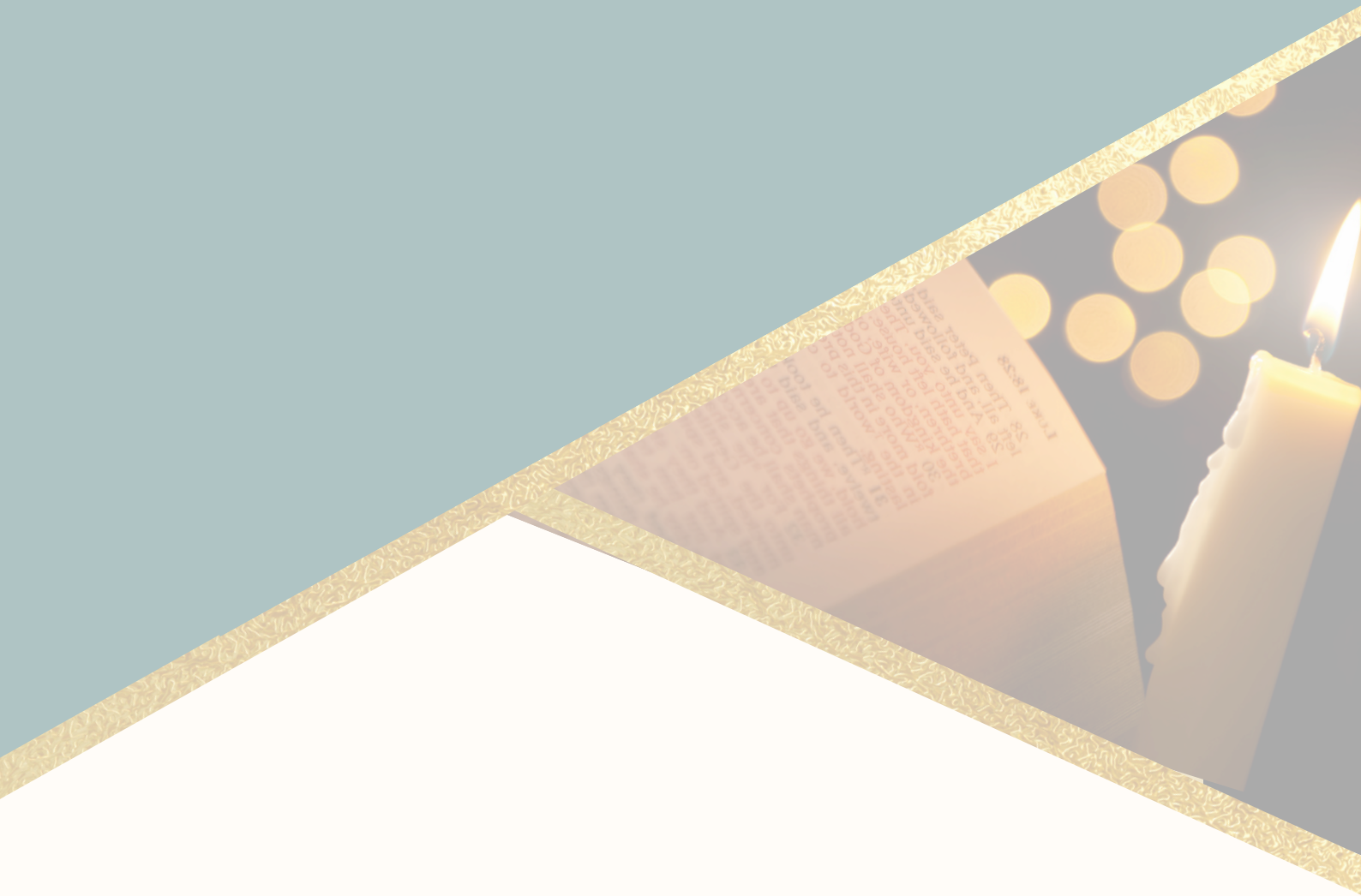


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