

**THE** *Wednesday* **WORD** Summer Holidays 2023  
**SHARING SUNDAY'S GOSPEL**



**Connecting Home, School and Parish**

Wednesday  
19<sup>th</sup> July 2023



Good News  
for Families

# 1 Enjoy reading this Sunday's Gospel

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep, his enemy came and sowed darnel weeds among the wheat. When the shoots sprouted the weeds appeared as well. The servants wanted to pull up the weeds but, not wanting to risk damaging the wheat, they went to the owner and said, 'Do you want us to go and weed it out?'" But the owner said, 'No, because when you take out the weeds you might pull up the wheat with them.' So the owner let them grow together until harvest time when the wheat could be separated from the weeds, and then the wheat could be gathered into his barn."



Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2023. Matt. 13:24-30 (the 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)

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 **GROWING**.





**"We cannot grow up by ourselves; rather, we journey and grow in a community, in a family."** *Pope Francis*

What will the farmer do with the wheat? This Sunday's Gospel reminds us that the Kingdom of God is growing all around us. We live in a world where we see both good and bad and we can choose to be like the wheat or the weeds. We all make mistakes, but God is loving and patient and gives us time to grow into the people we were created to be. Ask your child what the word 'growing' means to them (other than increasing in height). Tell your child how they've grown as a person (and in goodness) during this school year.

**"Ask and seek and your heart will grow big enough to receive God."** *St Teresa of Calcutta*

Each new day is an opportunity to grow in God's goodness. Regularly praying together is a powerful way for the family to keep growing in love. Loving and following God makes us like the 'wheat' in this story. Throughout the summer holidays, what can we do to help the world to grow as God intends in these coming weeks? Perhaps we can: avoid doing wrong and always try to do what is right; try to be more patient with people around us; always try to forgive; say a prayer for someone who might have upset us; regularly share the gift of your smile with others; always try to be fair with others.



Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for the people who help us to **grow** in your love and please help us to keep **growing** in goodness. Amen.

## WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH



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

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**KINGDOM HEAVEN**  
**SEED WEEDS**  
**GROWING TOGETHER**  
**GATHER WHEAT**

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

H	T	N	E	V	A	E	H	E	H	T
V	A	G	T	N	G	K	N	I	K	V
H	E	A	S	D	E	E	W	G	I	D
E	H	T	D	N	T	M	V	W	N	T
A	W	H	G	R	O	W	I	N	G	D
V	S	E	E	D	G	H	G	H	D	R
E	K	R	G	D	E	E	V	N	O	E
N	V	N	E	G	T	A	H	W	M	H
H	I	E	R	E	H	T	E	G	O	T
K	S	D	W	E	E	D	S	D	N	A
G	N	I	W	O	R	G	T	H	W	G

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

usotwerd stereud hueravten kirngudotm  
 The \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ may be compared to a man who \_\_\_\_\_ good \_\_\_\_\_ in his field.

**Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Smiley**

Growing in goodness helps us to be happy together. As we grow, we can choose to be more like Jesus: patient, loving and full of forgiveness - with ourselves and others. We keep growing in goodness when we act upon what we learn about following Jesus.

**This week I will try my best to ...**  
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 .....





1 Enjoy reading the Gospel



Jesus said to the crowds that had gathered around him, "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure which has been hidden in a field. When someone finds the treasure, he hides it again and then he goes off filled with joy: he sells everything that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant who is looking for fine pearls. When he finds one pearl of really great value, he goes and sells everything that he has and buys that pearl."

Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2023 - Matt. 13:44-52 (the 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)

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 **TREASURE**.

2

"Dear Friends, let us keep the faith we have received and which is our true treasure." *Pope Francis*

What did Jesus say the kingdom of heaven is like? In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus compares the joy of the kingdom of heaven to the joy of finding hidden treasure or valuable pearls. Ask your child what the word 'treasure' means to them. Then each of you talk about something that you own which you consider to be an important treasure in your life - something that you value a very great deal and would be very sad to lose, and say why. Through this Gospel, we are reminded that no earthly treasure is as important as the treasure of our faith, our love for God and knowing of God's love for us.

3

"Whoever finds Jesus, finds a rich treasure." *Thomas à Kempis*

When we try to live as Jesus taught us, God's kingdom grows within our hearts: we discover we are loved and treasured by God our Father. This is a treasure beyond compare, more valuable than any earthly riches. It brings us joy and everlasting happiness. What are some ways in which we can bring a bit of 'heaven to earth' and share the treasure of God's love with others this week? Perhaps we can: write a kind letter to an elderly or distant relative or friend; as a family, make a telephone call to someone we know to be lonely or in hospital; donate to a charity; pray for someone in need.



Dear Lord Jesus, help us to have hearts that treasure you above all things, and to share the treasure of your love with others. Amen.

Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to ...

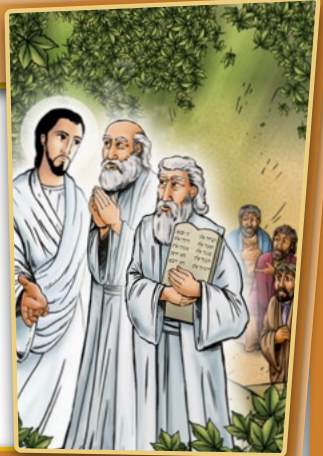
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# 1 Enjoy reading the Gospel

Peter, James and John went with Jesus to pray on a mountain top. While they were there, Jesus was transformed. His face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly, Moses and Elijah, the great teacher and the great prophet of the Old Testament, appeared and were talking with Jesus. Then a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, "This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him."



Gospel of Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2023 - Matthew 17:1-9 (the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord)

Which word or words stood out for you in this Sunday's Gospel? What does this Gospel make you think about? Enjoy exploring this Wednesday's word, which is **SACRED**.

2

**"Each person is a sacred mystery, infinitely loved by God and the family is the sacred image of God's love incarnate"** *Pope Francis*

Where did Jesus go to pray? In this Sunday's Gospel we hear about a sacred encounter on the Holy Mountain. Often in the Bible, mountains are described as sacred places (both Moses and Elijah experienced God's presence on a mountain). Ask your child what the word 'sacred' means to them. To be sacred is to be holy - to be dedicated to God. Tell each other about the places you find most sacred. Our churches are sacred places, dedicated to the worship of God, but other places are sacred too: a home filled with the love of God. **Where's your sacred space? Where do you pray or feel most at peace or closest to God (e.g. your house, your bedroom, your church, your garden or somewhere else)?**

3

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

The Holy Mountain experience was a sacred moment, a glimpse of heaven. The disciples saw Jesus for who he really is - the Son of God. God wants us to be his sacred people - to be holy and to try to live and love like Jesus did. Praying at home helps us to recognise and respect our homes as sacred places, full of God's love. What else can help to remind us of God's sacred presence in our home (e.g. a Bible, candles, a cross, icons or something else)? Talk about which sacred images you find most helpful.



Dear Jesus, thank you for the **sacred** places where you are worshipped, and for making our homes **sacred** with your presence. 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 told his disciples to get into a boat and go across to the other side of the lake, while he went into the hills to pray. The boat was battered by waves and a strong wind. Then Jesus came, walking on the sea. The disciples were terrified. "It's a ghost!" they cried. Jesus said, "Courage! It is I. Do not be afraid." Peter said, "Lord, if it is you, tell me to come to you on the water." Jesus said, "Come!" So Peter started to walk on the water. But then he grew frightened and began to sink. "Lord, save me!" he cried. At once Jesus stretched out his hand, and caught him. "Man of little faith," Jesus said. "Why did you doubt?" As Jesus and Peter got into the boat the wind dropped. The others in the boat bowed down before Jesus and said, "Truly, you are the Son of God."



Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2023 - Matt. 14:22-33 (the 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)

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 **BELIEVE**.

## 2

**"We all have in our hearts some areas of unbelief. Let us say to the Lord: I believe!"** Pope Francis

After saving Peter from sinking, what did Jesus ask him? In the Gospel Jesus reveals the wonderful and extraordinary power he had received from his Father by walking on the water. For a while, Peter's belief was really tested. Jesus invited Peter to believe and he makes the same invitation to you and me. Belief in Jesus is a gift from God that greatly enriches our lives. Ask your child what the word 'believe' means to them, and what it means to 'believe' in Jesus.

## 3

**"To believe means to put our lives in the hands of God, especially in our most difficult moments."** Pope Francis

The storm stopped when Jesus stepped into the boat. We can try to remember this Sunday's Gospel in times of trouble - when life feels 'stormy'. Even though, like Peter, we may sometimes have doubts, be assured that, when we do doubt, Jesus is still truly close to us and ready to help us to believe. How can we grow in our belief in Jesus? Perhaps we can: read about what Jesus did and said; sit quietly in prayer, asking God to help us grow in belief; try our best to live out Jesus' teachings and see the difference it makes to life.



Dear Lord Jesus, please help our **belief** in you to grow - remembering that we can always put our trust in you, especially if life feels 'stormy'. 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 came into the region of Tyre and Sidon where the people of Canaan lived. A Canaanite woman came to him, crying out, "Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David. My daughter is tormented by a devil." But Jesus said, "I've been sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." So the woman came and knelt before him. "Lord," she said, "help me." But Jesus said, "It's not right to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." And she said, "Ah yes, Lord; but even dogs eat the scraps which fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus said to her, "Woman, you have great faith. Let it be as you wish." At that moment the woman's daughter was healed.



Gospel of Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2023 – Matthew 15:21-28 (the 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A)

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 **OPENNESS**.

### 2

**"Love, by its nature, is communication; it leads to openness and sharing."** Pope Francis

In this Sunday's Gospel, the people would have been surprised that Jesus helped the non-Jewish woman, as they thought that Jesus came only to save and heal the Jewish people – not Canaanites! Jesus came for everyone and this Gospel reminds us of his openness to people of all cultures and backgrounds – and that includes you and me too! Ask your child what the word 'openness' means to them. Who is usually open with them – ready to listen to and support them? How does it make them feel when people are open with them?

### 3

**"We are all called to receive the Word of God with an open heart and mind."** Pope Francis

Good relationships depend upon openness. What happens to a family or community when people are open with each other? How can we be more open to God and to others in this coming week? Perhaps we can: spend a little more time in prayer, alone and together; read the gospels; try to listen and understand if someone has a problem; try not to demand our own way; try to learn something new; invite someone round and let them – not us – choose what to play; be open and ready to accept praise or correction.



Dear Lord Jesus, please help me to be more **open** to you by being kind and **open** to the people I meet each day. 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 asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" They said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say the prophet Elijah or another one of the prophets." Then he said to them, "Who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered: "You are the Christ, Son of the living God." Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah: it is my Father in heaven who has revealed this to you. I now say to you that you are Peter, the Rock – and it is on this rock that I will build my Church. The gates of the underworld cannot stand against my Church. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, so that whatever you bind on earth will also be bound in heaven."



Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2023 – Matt. 16:13-20 (the 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)

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 **CHURCH**.

## 2

**"Let the Church always be a place of mercy and hope, where everyone is welcomed, loved and forgiven."** *Pope Francis*

What did Jesus say he would build? Jesus gave St Peter the important task of leading the Church – a duty which is now undertaken by Pope Francis. Ask your child what the word 'church' means to them. 'Church' is the name given to the community of Christian believers. The word 'Catholic' means 'universal' – the Church is for everyone. The word 'church' can also be used to name the building where we meet to worship God together. Each of you share a memorable experience that you have had of Church (perhaps attending a Wedding, a Baptism, Holy Communion or something else).

## 3

**"Dear brothers and sisters, the Church is a family where we love and are loved. The Church loves you!"** *Pope Francis*

Through his friends, Jesus established his Church on earth, which is a reminder of God's love for all people – that includes you and me too. A church building is a holy place, where many people can meet and experience the peace within. Each of you say what you think attracts people to Church. Perhaps it is: the community, hearing God's Word, silence, being strengthened spiritually, Holy Communion or something else? Come along to hear the Gospel and meet and greet your church family this Sunday. All are warmly invited.

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for establishing the **Church** to support, strengthen and guide us as we journey through life together. 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 began to tell his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem, and that there he would suffer and be put to death, but that on the third day he would be raised up. He also said, "Those who want to be followers of mine must deny themselves, take up their cross and follow me. Those who try to save their own life will lose it, but those who lose their life for my sake will find it. What does anyone gain who wins the whole world but loses their own life? When the Son of Man comes in the glory of his Father with his angels, he will reward each person according to what they have done."



Gospel of Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2023 – Matthew 16:21-27 (the 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A)

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 **FAITHFUL**.

2

**"God is faithful, always faithful and continues to be rich in goodness and mercy."** *Pope Francis*

What will Jesus do when he returns? In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells his followers how to discover the real wealth of life – on earth and in the world to come. Life in all its fullness comes from being faithful to Jesus. Ask your child what the word 'faithful' means to them. To be faithful is to be true to someone or something. Do they know someone who is a faithful friend – someone who stays with them in both good and difficult times and always keeps their promises? What is it like to be in the company of a faithful person? Talk about a person you know to be a faithful friend, and say why.

3

**"Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies."** *St Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa)*

To be faithful is to be loyal, reliable, supportive and trustworthy – to keep promises and stand up for the truth. Jesus offers to be our faithful friend and invites us to be his. How can we grow in faithfulness to God and to each other? Perhaps we can: always try to love our neighbour as ourselves; pray and ask God to help us grow in faithfulness; follow the teachings of Jesus; always try to keep our promises.

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for being our faithful friend. Please help us to keep growing in faithfulness to you and to one another. 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**  
6<sup>th</sup> September



**Good News  
for Families**

# 1 Enjoy reading this Sunday's Gospel

Jesus said to his disciples, "If your brother does something against you, point out his fault to him when the two of you are alone together. If he listens to you, then you have won your brother back. But if he does not listen to you, then you should take one or two others along with you, so that every word you say may be confirmed by them. If he still refuses to listen, tell the whole church community; and if he even refuses to listen to the Church, treat him as an outcast. I tell you truly, if two of you on earth agree what to ask for, then my Father in heaven will grant it. If two or three come together in my name, there I am with them."



Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September. Matt. 18:15-20 (the 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, 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 **RECONCILIATION**





**"Let us all become people of reconciliation and peace!"** Pope Francis

What does Jesus say is the first thing that we should do if someone upsets us? Sometimes we make mistakes and occasionally upset one another. The important thing is to overcome such upsets in a loving way and become friends again. This is also known as reconciliation. This Sunday's Gospel suggests ways of doing this peacefully and calmly. Ask your child who have been their special friends over the years, even if they have had misunderstandings. Tell your children about the special friendships you have had over the years. Each say what you think makes a lasting friendship?

**"Do I take the Gospel message of reconciliation and love into the places where I live and work?"** Pope Francis

In the Gospel, Jesus teaches us that we should always try hard to be reconciled - to heal relationships and to try to make friends again. Prayer is an important part of reconciliation. We can ask Jesus, anytime, to bring peace to a situation, and to guide us back to friendship. We can't always undo mistakes if we have done something wrong and upset someone, but we can always learn from our mistakes and try to make amends. **As a family, share ideas about how to be reconciled with someone if things go wrong. Perhaps we can; say sorry if we have done wrong; ask an adult to help us make friends again. Can you think of other ways?**



Dear Lord Jesus, help us always to be ready to make peace and to be **reconciled** with our friends, neighbours and with you - to live together in harmony and happiness. Amen.

## WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH



Cross out the letters **c d m** in the 4 jumbled words to find 4 real words.

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

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**JESUS DISCIPLES**

**BROTHER FAULT**

**ALONE TOGETHER**

**WIN BACK**

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

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

brocthedrm mycourd thcemnd cwodnm  
 If \_\_\_\_\_ brother listens to you, \_\_\_\_\_  
 you have \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ back.

**Write** a promise and then **draw** a big smile on Smiley

**This week I will try my best to ...**

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**DID YOU KNOW?** This Sunday we celebrate 'Education Sunday': a national day of prayer when we especially remember all those involved in the education and the care of our children: [catholiceducation.org.uk](http://catholiceducation.org.uk)

# WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH



# SUMMER SPECIAL

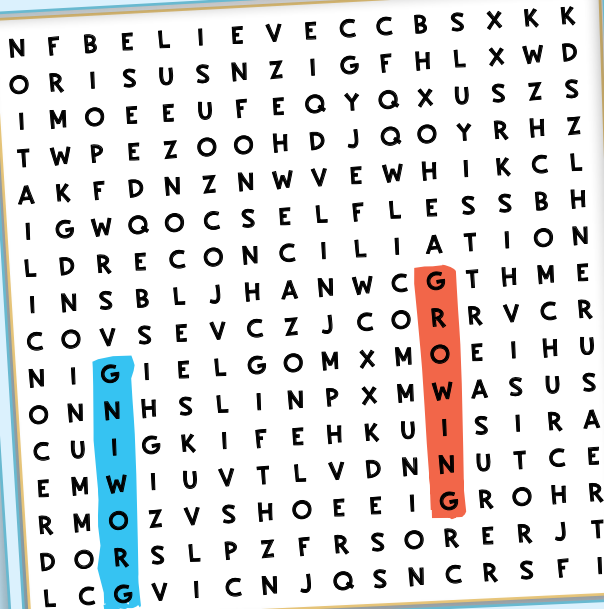
Find the Wednesday Words  
in the Scripture Square

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

- GROWING**
- TREASURE**
- COMMUNION**
- BELIEVE**
- VISITORS**
- CHURCH**
- SELFLESS**
- RECONCILIATION**

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

Now match each word  
above to the correct  
Gospel picture below



**GROWING**



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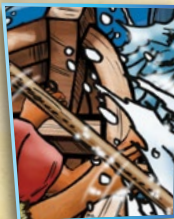
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