



Dear Parents and Carers,

At different times throughout our lives, we and our children will receive various invitations – some more important than others. However, the most important invitation is the one that is offered to us in the Gospel below.

Throughout the Bible the joyful images of weddings are often used to describe how much God loves us. When Jesus told this story he was thinking of the Chosen People, the people of Israel, but many of their leaders did not respond to God's invitation when Jesus came.

Wednesday 11th October 2023

God's invitation is not just for certain people but for all of us, regardless of our past or present situation. God's banquet starts here on earth and continues right into heaven.

You are invited to enjoy spending a short, special time with your child exploring this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **INVITATION**.

Dom Henry Wansbrough



To see this week's Parish Version of The Wednesday Word: wednesdayword.org - Parents' Pages - Lectio Divina with Fr Henry.

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH
Sunday 15th October 2023



Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like when a king held a wedding feast for his son. He sent his servants to summon those who had been invited, but they didn't want to come. He sent other servants and said, 'Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared the meal, everything is ready, come to the feast.' Some of those invited took no notice, but others seized the king's servants. The king was very angry and sent his soldiers. Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Go out into the streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding feast.' The servants went out and gathered together everyone they could find, both bad and good alike. The wedding hall was now filled with guests."

Adapted from Matthew 22:1-10

The 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

You are warmly invited to learn more about the Gospel through your local parish church.

"Let us ask the Lord for the grace always to accept the invitation to His feast, which is free." *Pope Francis*

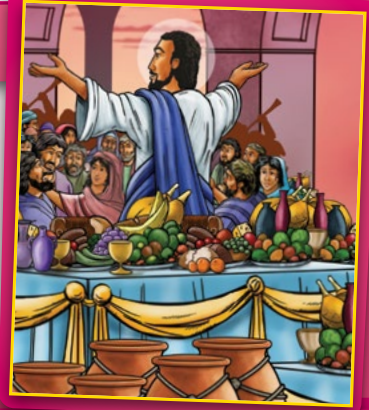


In this Sunday's Gospel God is like the king, inviting us to the feast. We are reminded that we are invited to share in God's life: to celebrate belonging to the family of God forever, living in peace with everyone.



1 Our Special Time Together

Enjoy reading the Gospel overleaf (or below for younger children)



Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like when a king held a wedding feast for his son. He sent his servants to summon those who had been invited, but they didn't want to come. Then the king said to his servants, 'The wedding feast is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Now go out into the streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding feast.' The servants went out and gathered together everyone they could find, until the wedding hall was filled with guests."

What did Jesus compare the kingdom of heaven to? Which word or words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? See the picture opposite. What does it make you think about?

2 Wednesday's Word is ...

INVITATION

3 Loving God & Each Other

"Jesus invites us to build the civilization of love together." *Pope Francis*

Ask your child what the word 'invitation' means to them. Then each of you tell one another about the best invitation that you've ever had. What was good about it? Have you ever refused an invitation? How does it feel when you invite someone to a party? How does it feel when someone invites you for tea, to play or to a wedding? It may help your child if you tell them about an invitation which you would most like to receive, and say why.

"Dear young friends, I invite everyone to learn to pray every day." *Pope Francis*

Every moment God is inviting us into a loving relationship. We accept God's invitation through loving him and all those around us. As a family, think about someone you could invite to your home for a meal or to play (when the time is right) - to make them feel especially valued and loved. This week, why not accept Pope Francis' invitation (above) to learn to pray every day - inviting God to guide you in all you do and in all you say?

Dear Lord Jesus, please help us to remember that every moment of the day you are **inviting** us into your love, to share in your happiness and peace. Amen.

Gospel Gallery

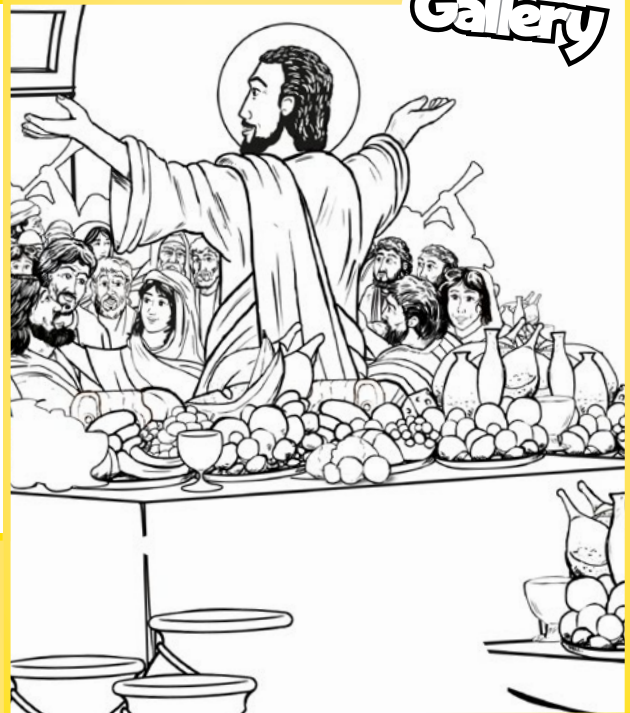
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WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

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

- KINGDOM HEAVEN**
- WEDDING FEAST**
- UNWORTHY GUESTS**
- EVERYONE INVITED**

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



Search for at least three differences between this picture and the colour one. Then draw them in before colouring.

Cross out the letters **a b m** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

fimband mebverayone stremebtast bomuta

"Now go _____ into the _____ and invite _____ you _____ to the feast."

God's invitation is for right here - right now! When we put our faith in Jesus and invite him into our lives, he can help us. We also discover the happiness that comes from knowing that God is our Father and that we are God's children.

Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to...

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