



Dear Parents and Carers,

In this Sunday's Gospel, like teachers of that time, Jesus uses blunt language to grab his disciples' attention and promises unlimited rewards for even for the smallest act of kindness, like giving someone a cup of water. However, following Jesus would certainly mean making some difficult decisions for his disciples.

Through this Gospel Jesus is encouraging his disciples to be selfless - to give him first place in their lives. They are to forget about themselves and to put others' needs before their own - to be selfless. This message is for each one of us too.

Wednesday 28th June 2023

St Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa) reminds us, "We will be the happiest people in the world if we belong to God, if we place ourselves at his disposal, if we let him use us as he pleases."

Enjoy a special time this evening, hearing your child's thoughts about this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **SELFLESS**.

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 2nd July 2023



Jesus instructed the twelve as follows: "Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me. Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me. Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will have a prophet's reward; and anyone who welcomes a holy man because he is a holy man will have a holy man's reward. If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward."

Adapted from
(Matthew 10:37-42 (the 13th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A))

**Everyone can learn more about this Gospel
in Church - all are warmly invited.**

"Jesus leads us to go out from ourselves more and more, to give ourselves and to serve others." Pope Francis



Selflessness is part of everyday life. We prove our love by our actions - it is selflessness which makes people truly great, warmly remembered and deeply loved. The happiest people are actually those who are selfless and serve others.



1 Our Special Time Together

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

Jesus said to his disciples, "If you want to belong to me, you must love me more than anyone and even more than you love yourself. You must be willing to carry your cross and follow me. Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me and they also welcome my heavenly Father who sent me. And anyone who gives even a cup of cold water to someone who belongs to me will certainly be rewarded."

Who did Jesus say we should love more than anyone else? Which word or words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? What does the picture make you think about?



2 Wednesday's Word is ...

SELFLESS

3

Loving God & Each Other

Selfless people make the world a much better place.

Ask your child what the word 'selfless' means to them. Being 'selfless' is the opposite of being 'selfish'. It is about being very aware of others' needs or interests, and putting them before our own. Who are the most selfless people that your child knows - that is, people who put others' needs first? Why did they think of those people? It may help your child if you can talk about a historical figure or someone you know who can be described as selfless. What is it like to be in the company of a selfless person?

"Love God, serve God: Everything is in that."

St Clare of Assisi

To love God, we must be selfless. As a family, talk about how you can selflessly follow Jesus and serve others in this coming week, even in little ways, at home, at school or in the community. Perhaps you can: give extra help to your family around the house; give time or money where needed; resist pushing in and let others go first instead; support a charity; give some of your leisure or play time to be with God in prayer.

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for the example of many selfless people who show us your way of love and kindness. Please help us to be selfless like them. Amen.

Gospel Gallery

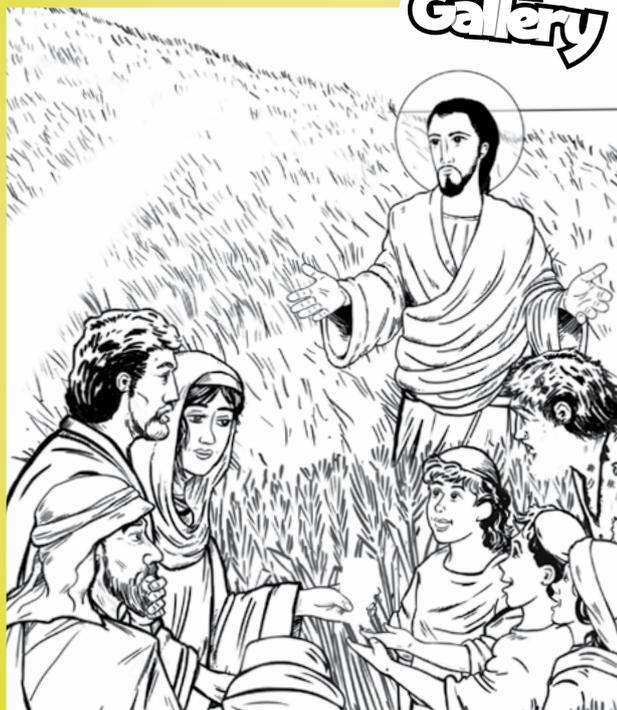
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WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER ACROSS OR DOWN

- DISCIPLES
- SELFLESS
- BELONG JESUS
- WELCOME FATHER
- GIVING REWARDED

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 **i a d** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

muidsat alodvie damie bedloanig

Jesus said, "If you want to _____ to _____, you _____ me."

Tomorrow (29th June) is the feast day of St Peter and St Paul - two great saints who selflessly served the Church.

Find out more at: missiontogether.org.uk/day-of-many-colours & Saint Fact Files at: wednesdayword.org/home/childrens

Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to...

