

# Myself and why I am here

## Activity Sheet 1

### **I am here:**

Tick the box or boxes that explain why you are here and then share your responses in the group

- because I have decided to become a Catholic
- because I am curious about the Catholic Church
- because I have a Catholic friend and s/he asked if I want to come to church here
- because my parents decided I should be baptised
- because I want to be baptised
- because I want to receive my first holy communion

Are there other reasons?

# Myself and why I am here

## Activity Sheet 2

### **Life is full of new beginnings**

You are at the beginning of a new journey as a Christian. Answer the questions below – ticking the boxes that apply to you. and use the answers to talk about new beginnings in your group.

- Do you remember when you first went to nursery/school?
- Do you remember when you first came to Church?
- What it was like?
- How did you feel?
- Who was there?
- What do you think you will remember about this new beginning on your faith journey?

Are there other new beginnings you can think of?

# A tour of the church Activity Sheet 1

Can you name it and explain it? Fill in the box next to the picture.

# A tour of the church Activity Sheet 2

Can you name it and explain it? Fill in the box next to the picture.



# A tour of the church

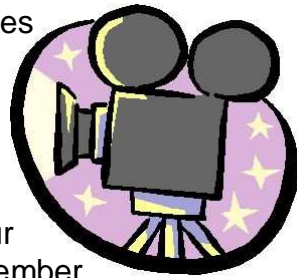
## Activity Sheet 3

### **Make a virtual tour of your church for your friends**

You will need a camera – one that takes still pictures or a video camera. Go around the church and photograph all the things of interest.

If you have used a still camera, you might make a collage on a large sheet of card or paper or you might make a virtual tour using the pictures on your computer. If you plan to use a video camera, remember that you need a script; you have to be well prepared before you “shoot”.

Make a note of all the things you want to include:



# Ministries in the parish

## Activity Sheet 1

**Interview people involved in ministries in the parish.**

**Here are a few questions you can ask your priest:**

- How long has he been a priest?
- What made him decide to be a priest?
- How long did it take?
- Does he like being a priest?
- Does he have any time off?
- What does he do in his time off?



**Ask your deacon (if you have one) or your catechist**

to tell you about their ministries.

**Talk to a welcomer, an usher or a server** how they became involved in doing the work they do in the parish. Ask them why they do it and if they enjoy doing it.

**Ask the musicians, the collectors, the flower arrangers or the cleaners** how they learned to do what they are doing and ask if they would like any help

**What other questions would you like to ask people?**

# Ministries in the parish Activity Sheet 2









Can you name and explain what these people are doing?  
Fill in the box next to the picture.



# Ministries in the parish Activity Sheet 3

Can you name and explain what these people are doing?

Fill in the box next to the picture.

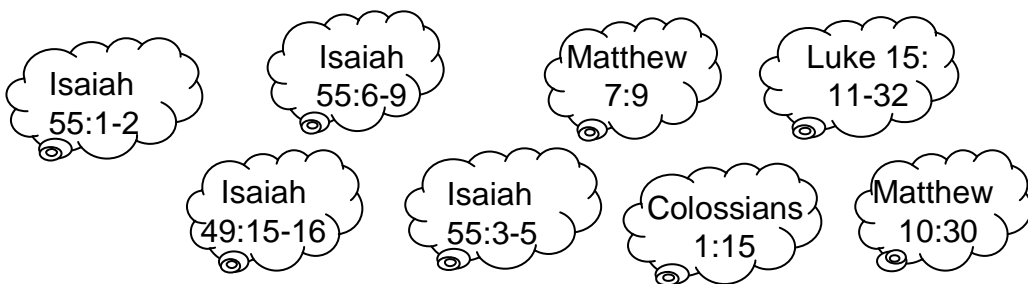


# About God, the Father

## Activity Sheet 1

### Images of God from the Bible

Find the Scripture passages in the bubbles and use them to match the statements below



1. Jesus is the image of the invisible God
2. God is generous to a fault, utterly free in what he gives.
3. God as life-giving and faithful for all people.
4. God is abundant in mercy and pardon.
5. The God whom Jesus calls Father cares about us and knows us intimately. He tells us that "every hair on our head is numbered."
6. In the parable of the Prodigal Son, Jesus tells us about the unconditional love of the Father.
7. God will never forget us; he has carved us on the palms of his hand.
8. God treats his children as a good and wise earthly parent would. No kind parent would mock his child by answering his cry for bread with stones.

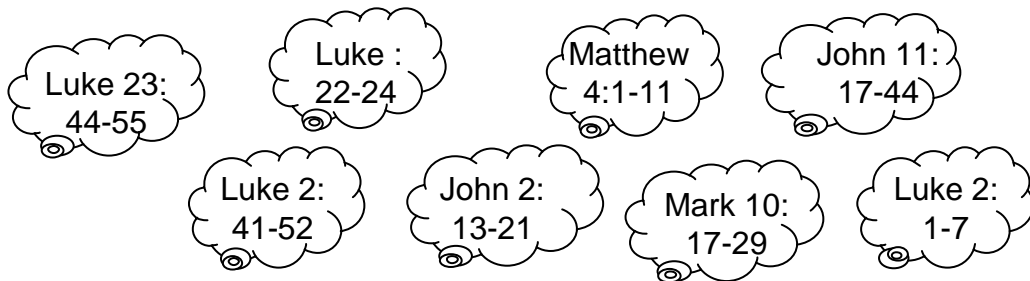
Answers: 1: Colossians 1:15; 2: Isaiah 55:1-2; 3: Isaiah 55:3-5; 4: Isaiah 55:6-9; 5: Matthew 10:30; 6: Luke 15:11-32; 7: Isaiah 49:15-16; 8: Matthew 7:9.

# About God, the Son

Activity Sheet 3 – about Jesus, who was human

## When Jesus lived on earth 2000 years ago, he was human

Find the evidence of his humanity in the Scripture passages in the bubbles and use them to match the statements below



1. Jesus was born
2. He was dependent on his parents and he had to become independent like we do; he had to learn
3. He got tired and he needed to sleep
4. Jesus got angry and he experienced emotion
5. He was sad and he cried
6. Jesus was understanding and he loved
7. He experienced hunger and he was tempted
8. Jesus suffered and he died

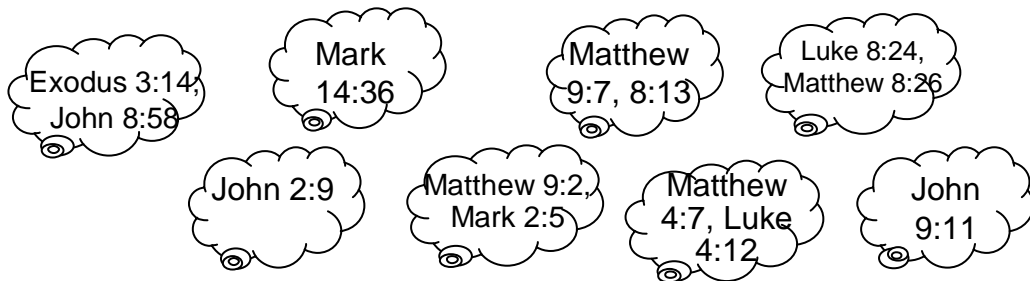
Answers: 1: Luke 2:1-7; 2: Luke 4:1-5; 3: Luke 8:22-24; 4: John 2:13-21; 5: John 11:17-44; 6: Mark 10:17-29; 7: Matthew 4:1-11; 8: Luke 23:44-55

# About God, the Son

## Activity Sheet 4 – about Jesus, who was divine

### Jesus was divine

Find the evidence of his divinity in the Scripture passages in the bubbles and use them to match the statements below



1. Jesus referred to himself as “I AM” as God said “I AM who I AM”
2. He tells Satan “You shall not tempt the Lord your God” in reference to Himself
3. Jesus forgives sins and only God can do that
4. Jesus calls God “Abba” – Aramaic for daddy which shows his unique intimacy with the Father
5. Jesus cures those who are paralysed
6. Jesus calmed the storm; even the wind and sea obeyed him
7. He changed water into wine
8. Jesus cured the blind

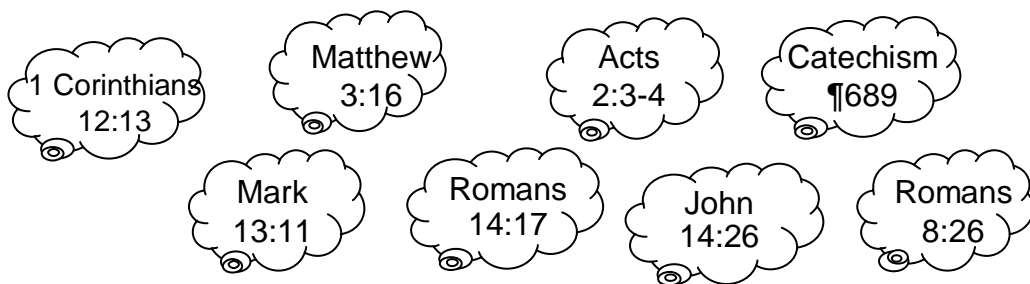
Answers: 1: John 8:58; Exodus 3:14; 2: Matthew 4:7; Luke 4:12; 3: Matthew 9:2; Mark 2:5;  
4: Mark 14:36; 5: Matthew 8:13, 9:7; 6: Luke 8:24, Matthew 8:26; 7: John 2:9; 8: John 9:11

# About God, the Holy Spirit

## Activity Sheet 5 – about the Holy Spirit

### The Holy Spirit

Find out about the Holy Spirit in the Scripture passages and in the Catechism in the bubbles and use them to match the statements below



1. The Holy Spirit acts in baptism through the symbolism of water and “by the one Spirit we are all baptised”
2. The Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, at Jesus’ baptism
3. The Holy Spirit appeared like tongues of fire on the disciples on Pentecost and filled them with himself.
4. Catholics believe that there are three persons in one God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
5. The Holy Spirit gives us the words to speak when we don't know what to say.
6. The Holy Spirit fills us with God's peace and joy
7. The Holy Spirit helps us teaches us, and reminds us of the words of Jesus.
8. The Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness.

Answers: 1: 1 Corinthians 12:13; 2: Matthew 3:16; 3: Acts 2:3-4; 4: Catechism ¶689; 5: Mark 13:11; 6: Acts 8:17; 7: John 14:26; 8: Romans 8:26

# About Catholics and the Pope

## Activity Sheet 1

When I think of the Pope, I think:

- of someone who is very holy
- of someone very important – like a celebrity or royalty
- he should sell some of the Church's riches and give the money to the poor
- of someone who teaches us right from wrong
- of someone who does not make mistakes

Do you have any other ideas about the Pope?

# About Catholics and the bishop

## Activity Sheet 2 – true or false

1. The word 'bishop' means an overseer.  true  false
2. The bishop works under the authority of the queen  true  false
3. The bishop wears a cross to show that he likes to wear jewellery  true  false
4. The bishop wears a ring as a sign of the fidelity to the Pope  true  false
5. The bishop wears a mitre as a symbol of his authority as the head and spiritual pastor of a diocese  true  false
6. He uses a crosier – because he is usually old and he needs a walking stick  true  false
7. The same way a shepherd leads the flock with his staff, so does the bishop lead the people of God to the truth of Christ through his teaching and example.  true  false
8. Bishops are the successors of the apostles. Their primary role is to teach – they are the chief catechists in their dioceses  true  false

Answers: 1. true; 2. false (the bishop works under the authority of the pope); 3. false (cross worn around his neck shows that he walks in the footsteps of Christ); 4. true; 5. true; 6. false (it is a symbol of the bishop as the spiritual shepherd of a diocese); 7. true; 8. true

# About Catholics and the Mass

## Activity Sheet 3

For me, the Mass is a time:

- when I meet friends
- when I like to listen to Bible stories
- when I don't always know what to do
- when I want to receive Communion with everyone else
- when I like to give others a sign of peace
- when I like to sing hymns
- when I sometimes get bored because I don't understand what is happening

Or, for me, Mass is a time when

# About Catholics and Mary

## Activity Sheet 4

When I think of Mary, the mother of Jesus, I think:

- about how she was a woman and mother
- of how I like to look at her statue in the Church
- about how she said “yes” when God asked her to be Jesus’s mother
- about how I would like to learn to say the rosary
- about what it must have been like for her to see her son live, die and rise from the dead.

Ask somehow to teach you to say the rosary





## Advent Activity

### **Make an advent wreath.**

You will need four or five candles: 3 purple, 1 pink and 1 white, a wreath (or a styrofoam circle and some greenery from fir trees or from a holly bush in your garden or from a florist to make a wreath).

Place the four coloured candles around the wreath (or in the styrofoam circle. If you are using styrofoam, add the greenery and take care not to prick yourself if you are using holly). The white candle goes in the middle of the circle. The first week of Advent, light one purple candle, the second week, light two purple candles, the third week light the two purple candles and the pink one (reminding you of the joy in your heart because Christmas is coming soon) and the fourth week, light all the coloured candles. Finally, on Christmas Day, light the white candle. Lighting the candles helps to mark the time as we wait to celebrate Jesus' coming on Christmas. The greenery symbolises everlasting life and the shape is a circle to remind us that God's love has no beginning and no end.



# Christmas

## Activity Sheet

### Christmas Word Search

Words associated with Christmas are hidden in the puzzle.  
See if you can find them!

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

These are the hidden words: JESUS, CHRIST, MARY, JOSEPH, BETHLEHEM,  
NATIVITY, HOLY CHILD, STABLE, SHEPHERDS, CHRISTMAS, STAR, CRIB,  
ANGELS, MAGI, GLORY, SON

# Epiphany

## Activity Sheet

### **What gift do you want to give to Jesus?**

In the popular Christmas Carol about the young boy who visits the infant Jesus, he plays the drum for the newborn because he cannot afford a gift for the baby. What can you do to give a gift to Jesus? Write about it or draw a picture to answer the question.



# Baptism and Confirmation

## Activity Sheet

Across

1. What sign are you marked with at your baptism?
2. At our Confirmation, we are sealed with what? (4 words)
3. What do we reply when the bishop or priest anoints us with Chrism?
4. We are baptised in the name of three persons (4 words).
5. At our baptism, we are given the light of Christ.
6. Jesus is son of who?

Down

1. What oil are you anointed with when you are confirmed?
2. We are baptised with what?
3. Baptism calls us to a life of what?
4. Why is water a symbol of baptism? (2 words)
5. We are anointed so that we will become like whom?

Answers: Across: 1: Cross, 2: Gifts of the Spirit, 3: Amen, 4: Father, Son, Holy Spirit, 5: Candle  
6 God. Down: 1: Chrism, 2: Water, 3: Water, 3: Service, 4: Life-giving, 5: Christ.

# Come and See Activity Sheet

## The Introductory Rites of the Mass

At the beginning of the Mass, we make the sign of the cross – a sign that we belong to God. Mark yourself with the cross now and when you do,

- touch your forehead and acknowledge that everything you think and say should come from God.
- touch your heart and acknowledge that your love is shaped by God's love for you.
- touch your shoulders to acknowledge that everything you do should be what God wants you to do.



We make the sign of the cross together as a community. It helps us feel that we are a community – not just individuals gathered.

Name three other things we do, which make us feel part of a people gathered together:

1

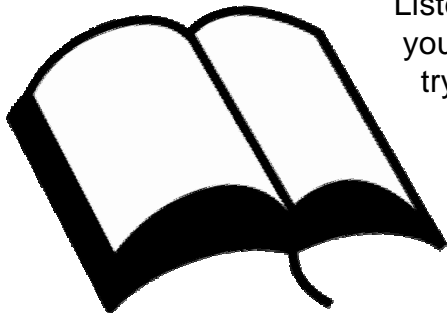
2

3

Possible answers: we sing the hymns not as individuals but together; we greet one another; we make the sign of the cross together; we all reminded that we need God and God's mercy; we all sing or say the Gloria together

## Listen to me Activity Sheet 1

The Liturgy of the Word in the Mass:



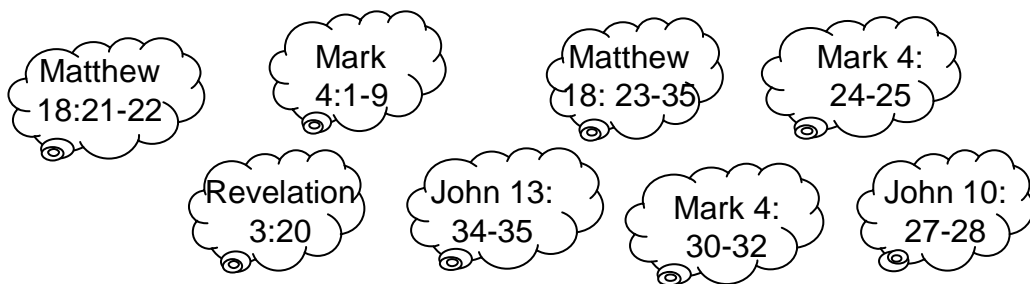
Listen to the Gospel of this Sunday. Before you begin, sit quietly and comfortably and try to empty your mind of all thoughts except for what you are about to hear. Pray for the grace to be open to God speaking to you. Think about what you heard for a minute; then, listen to the Gospel for a second time.

Now, write the story of the Gospel in your own words – or, write about one phrase you heard and reflect on why this phrase was important to you. Remember, this is God's gift, his message to you.

## Listen to me Activity Sheet 2

The Liturgy of the Word in the Mass:

**Jesus said “Listen to me.”** Look up the Scripture passages in the bubbles and connect them to the statements below. You will see how Jesus told us to listen to him; what he has to say is important.



1. He told people to listen to him if they have ears.
2. Jesus said we have to forgive one another over and over again.
3. He told the disciples to pay attention to what they were hearing
4. Jesus said we have to forgive one another from our hearts.
5. Jesus told us he is knocking at our door; if we hear him calling and we open the door, he will come to us.
6. Jesus told us to love one another as he loved us.
7. Jesus told the disciples what the Kingdom of Heaven is like.
8. Jesus said, "my sheep listen to my voice" Jesus' sheep are people like me and you. If we are going to follow Jesus, we have to listen to his voice so that we know the right way to go.

Answers: 1: Mark 4:1-9; 2: Matthew 18:21-22; 3: Mark 4:20-25; 4: Matthew 18:23-35; 5: Revelation 3:20; 6: John 13:34-35; 7: Mark 4:30-32; 8: John 10:27-28

# Let us give thanks and praise

Activity Sheet on the Offertory and on the Eucharistic Prayer



We place on the altar gifts of bread and wine, which will be transformed into the body and blood of Jesus. We also offer ourselves to God and pray that we, too, will be transformed and will become more and more like Jesus. The Eucharistic Prayer is a prayer of thanks and praise.

How do you give thanks and praise to God?  
Think about it and write a prayer of thanks and praise.



# Take and eat

Activity Sheet  
on receiving Jesus in the Eucharist

When we receive Holy Communion, we know, by faith, that it is Jesus we are receiving. We welcome him into our hearts. It is a very special moment when we are aware that Jesus is really present to us. This sacrament is God's greatest gift to us. Write a prayer thanking Jesus as they prepare to receive him in Holy Communion. Tell him how you will treasure his gift of himself to you.



# Go out and do the same

Activity Sheet  
on being sent out at the end of Mass to be Christ's witnesses

At the end of Mass, the priest says "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord". We are sent out to serve God and to serve one another. What kind of things can you do to serve God?



Possible answers: you might visit the sick, help the homeless, help an old or disabled person, you might befriend someone who needs a friend.

# About the Mass

## Activity Sheet

What have you learned about the Mass as you prepare to receive Holy Communion for the first time. The first column lists five “steps” in the life of Christ. See if you can draw lines to match those steps with the parts of the Mass:

Jesus invited  
the disciples  
to come and see

When they had come,  
he asked them to listen to him

They noticed that he  
gave thanks and praise  
to the Father

He told them to “take and eat”  
and to “take and drink”

The last thing he told  
them was to go out  
and do the same

We receive Holy  
Communion

We are sent out to  
be Christ’s witnesses  
in our world

We gather  
together  
at the beginning  
of the Mass











We listen to the  
Scriptures in the  
Liturgy of the Word

We give thanks and praise  
in the Liturgy  
of the Eucharist

Answers: Come and see = gather at the beginning of Mass; listen to him = Liturgy of the Word; thanks and praise = Liturgy of the Eucharist; take and eat = Communion; go out and do the same = we are sent out at the end of Mass

# About the Ten Commandments

## Activity Sheet 1: Explain the commandments

	1. You shall have no other gods before Me.	
	2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.	
	3. Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.	
	4. Honour your father and your mother.	
	5. You shall not kill.	
	6. You shall not commit adultery.	
	7. You shall not steal.	
	8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.	
	9. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife or husband.	
	10. You shall not covet your neighbour's goods.	

Answers: 1. No-one but God should be #1; 2. Don't use your lips to dishonour God; 3. Go to Mass on Sundays; 4. And, respect others in authority; 5. Do not be violent; 6. Dishonesty breaks hearts; 7. Respect what belongs to others; 8. Do not lie! See the "lying" eight; 9. Do not be jealous of your friends' friends; 10. Do not be jealous of what others have

# About the Mass Activity Sheet 2

Cut these strips out and put them in the right order of the Mass

	At the end of Mass, we are sent out to bring the Good News to others	Dismissal Rite
	We receive Jesus in the Eucharist	Communion
	We offer the bread and the wine which will be transformed into the Body and Blood of Jesus	Offertory
	We listen to Jesus speaking to us in the Scriptures	Liturgy of the Word
	The bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood of Jesus	Liturgy of the Eucharist
	At the beginning of Mass, we gather together and Christ is with us	Introductory & Penitential Rites

Answer: Introductory & Penitential Rites, Liturgy of the Word, Offertory, Liturgy of the Eucharist, Communion, Dismissal Rite

# About the Mass Activity Sheet 1

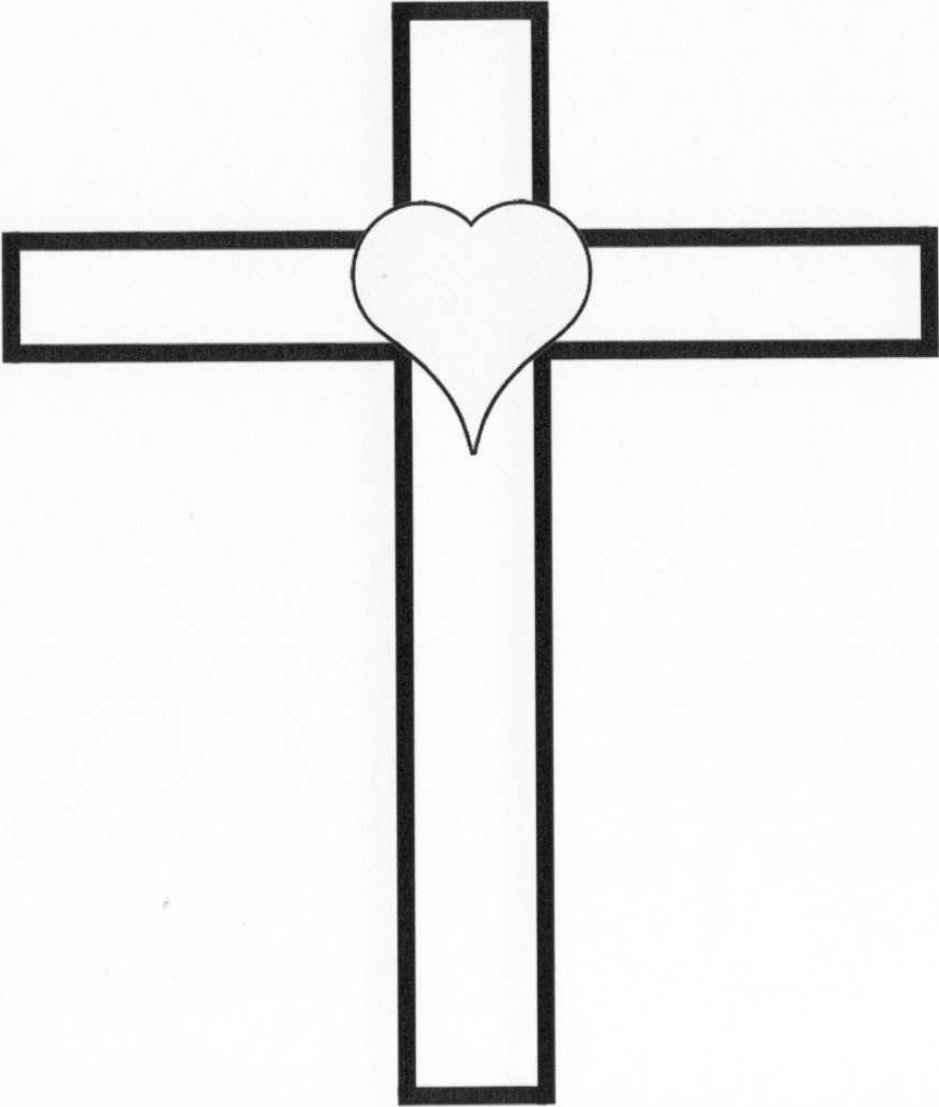
Emmaus Story and the Mass: Name the part of the Mass

	The disciples were sorry they had run away when Jesus was crucified; and they did not recognise Jesus when he joined them.	
	Jesus started with Moses and went through the Scriptures explaining everything about himself and how everything that happened to him had been foretold in the Scriptures.	
	As they came near to the village where they were going, the disciples offered Jesus a place to stay; they invited him in.	
	Jesus took and blessed the bread, he broke it and gave it to them.	
	As soon as the disciples recognised Jesus in the breaking of the bread. They set out immediately for Jerusalem to tell the others the Good News.	

Answer: Penitential Rite, Liturgy of the Word, Offertory, Liturgy of the eucharist, Dismissal Rite

# Lent

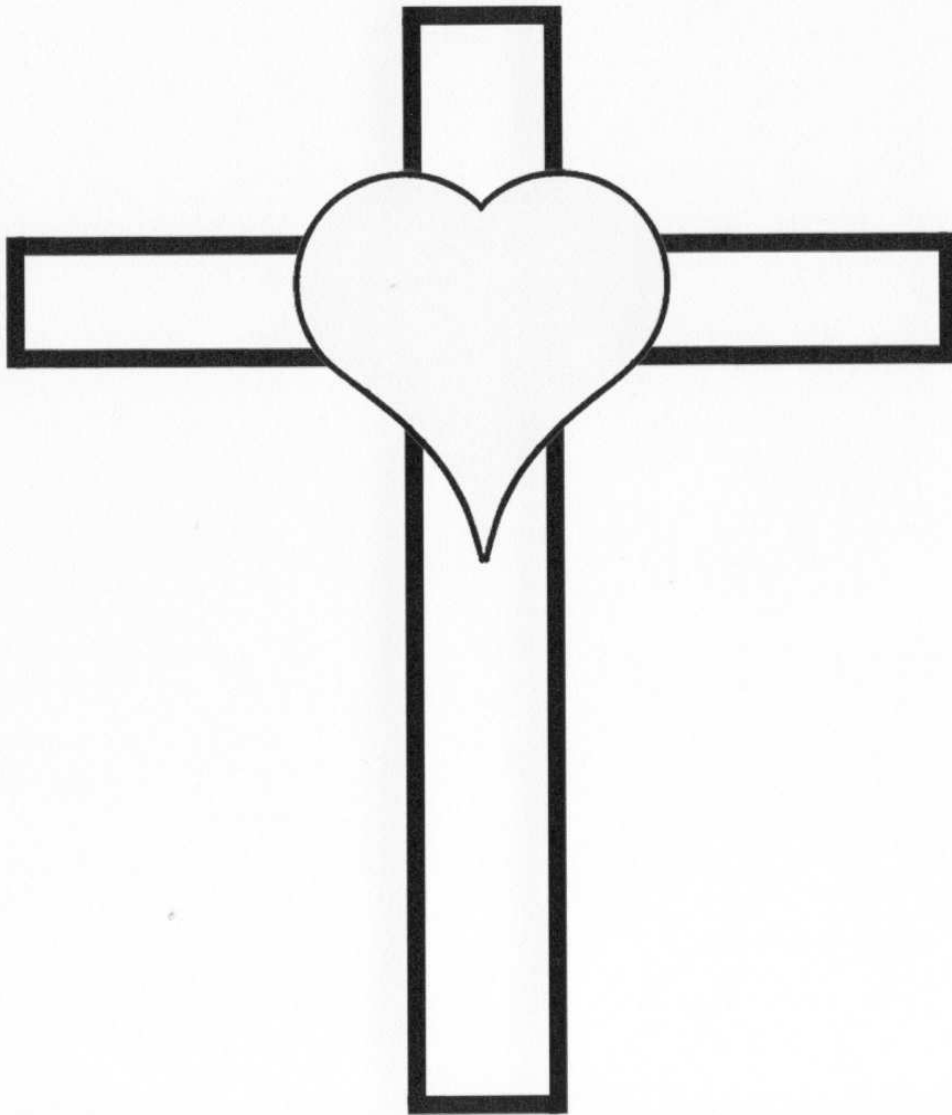
## Activity Sheet 1



Make a promise to do something this week to be more loving – to be more like Jesus. Write your promise in the heart and ask yourself each night if you've kept your promise.

# Lent

## Activity Sheet 2

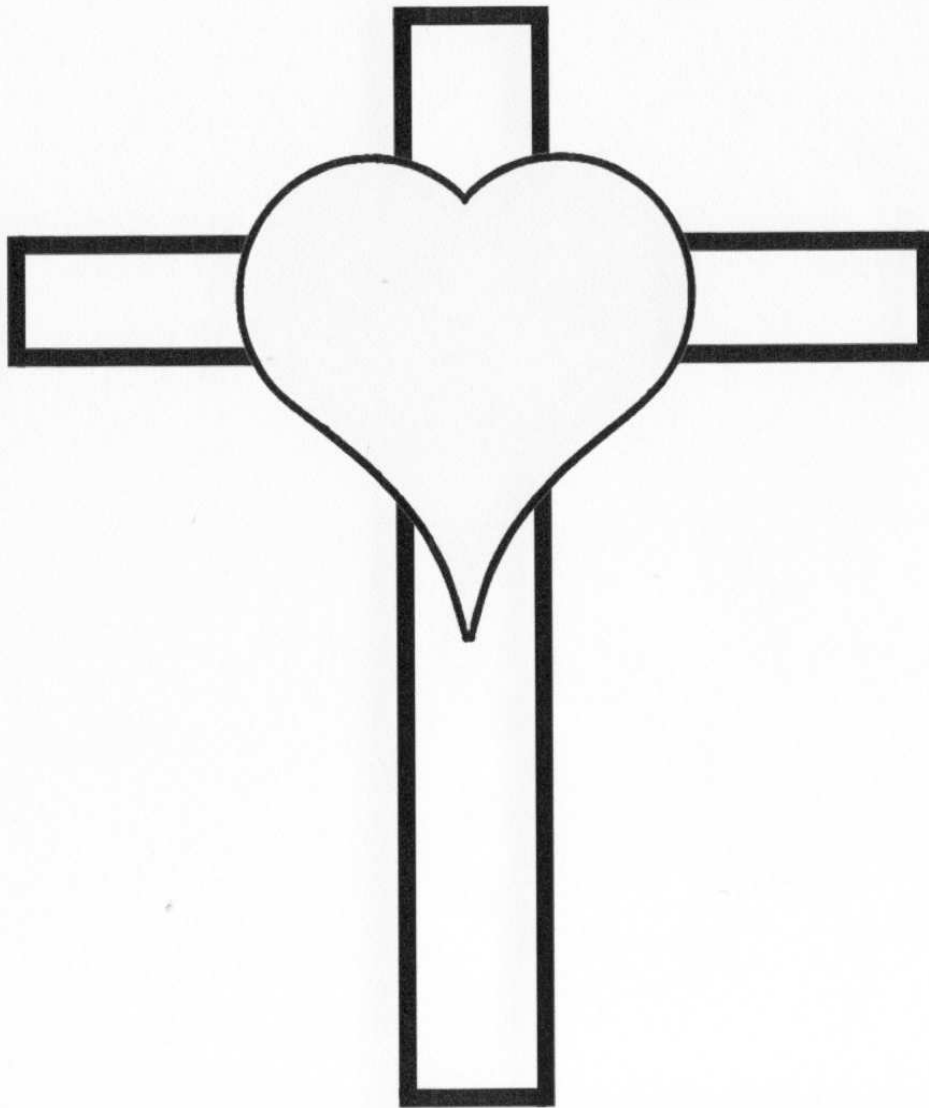


Make a different promise this week to do something to be more loving – to be more like Jesus. Write your promise in the heart and ask yourself each night if you've kept your promise.



# Lent

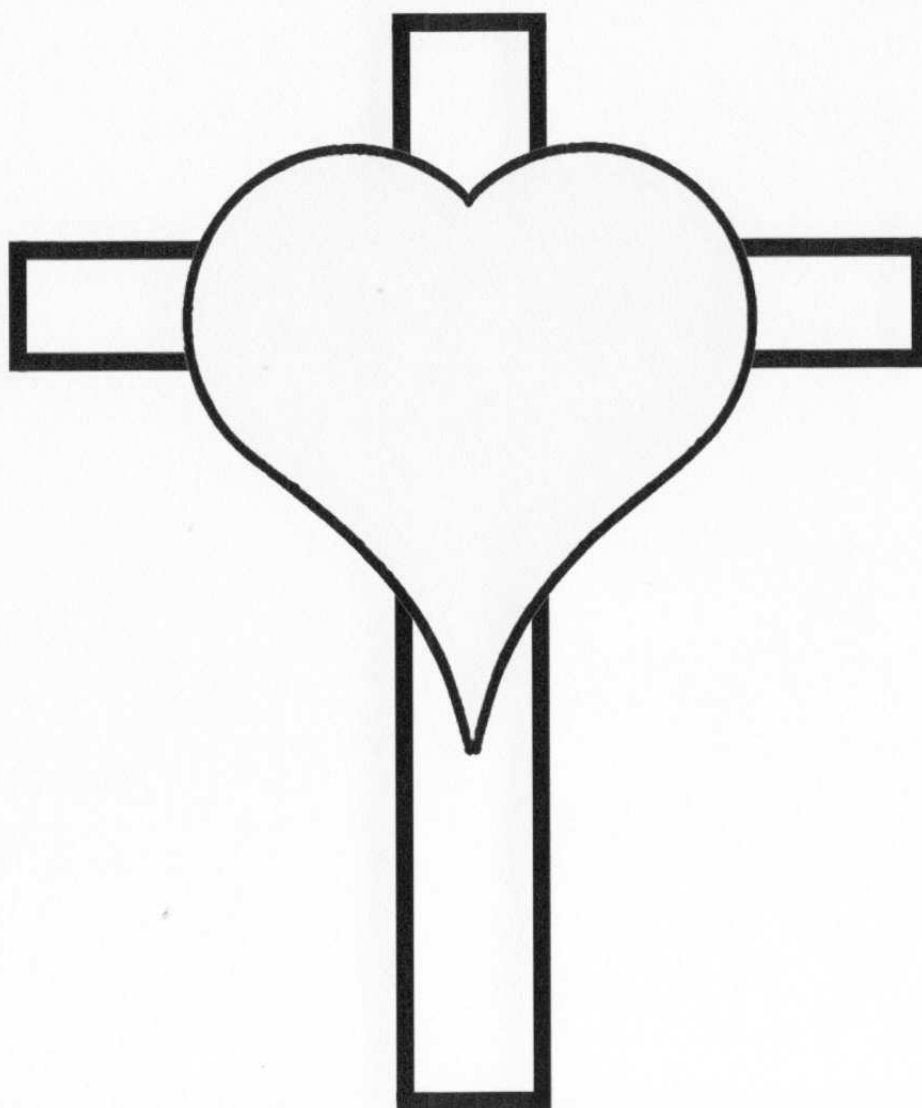
## Activity Sheet 3



How are you doing with your promises? Do you want to make the same promise again or a new one? Are you remembering to check before you go to bed that you have kept it?

# Lent

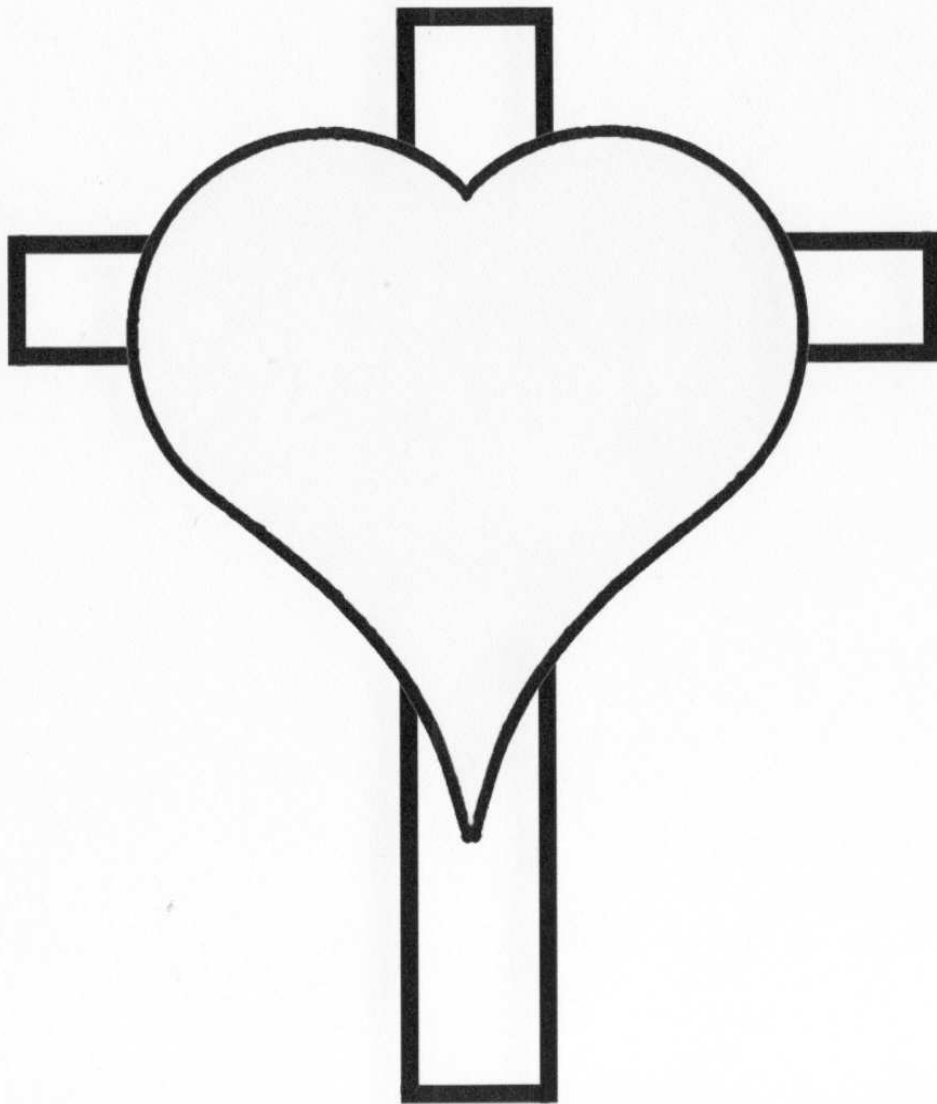
## Activity Sheet 4



Can you see how you are becoming more like Jesus? How are you more loving? As you make a new promise, thank God for the grace you have been given to keep your promises.

# Lent

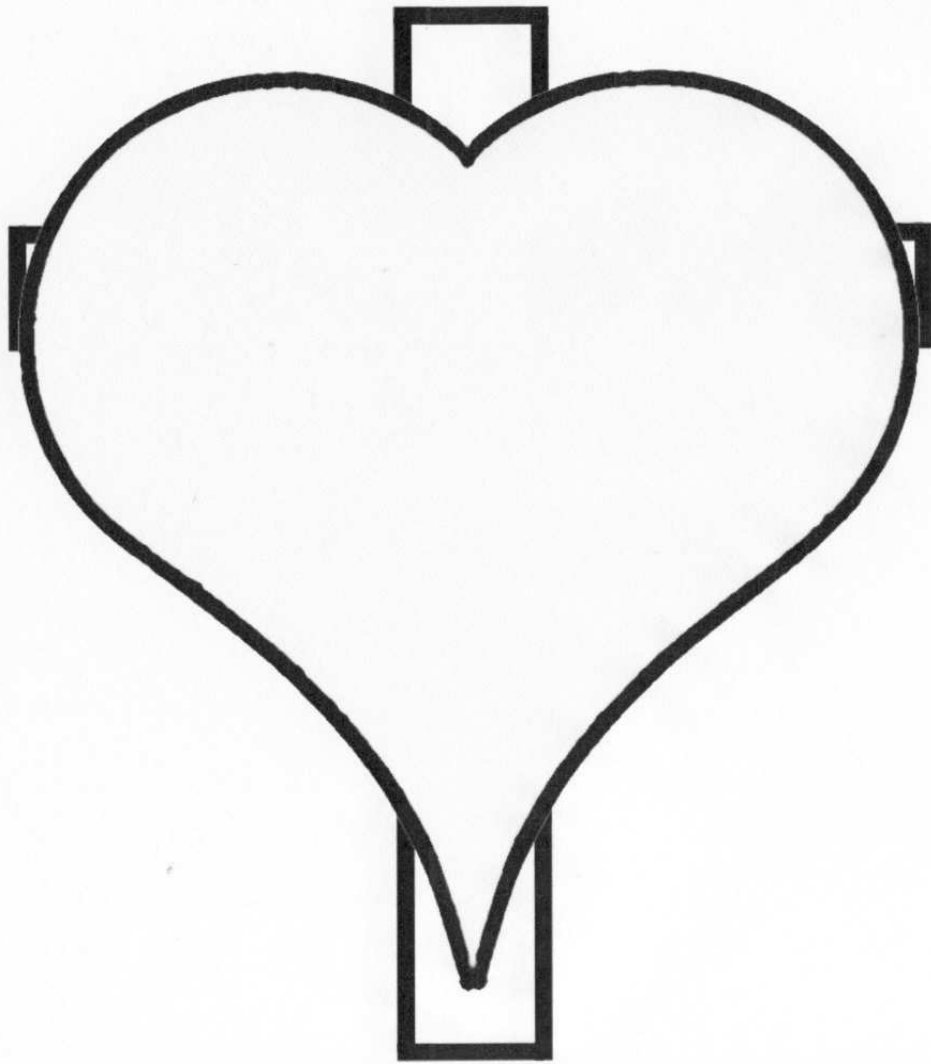
## Activity Sheet 5



What are some of the things that are tempting you not to keep your promises each week? Write them outside the cross and write a new promise in the cross to be more loving like Jesus.

# Lent

## Activity Sheet 6



Your heart is now as big as the cross. Jesus gave himself for us on the cross out of love. Name some of the ways you are learning to give yourself to others.

# Gifts and Fruits of the Spirit

crossword puzzle to see how much you have learned

**Across**

2. Which gift helps us to realise that God is beyond us? (3 words)
3. A fruit of the Spirit
4. A fruit of the Spirit that we offer to one another at Mass
5. A fruit of the Spirit that we cannot live without
6. What is another word for courage?
7. The gift that gives us the ability to act on the truth as we see it – even when there is a risk involved
8. This helps us to relate to God as a parent

**Down**

1. What is another way of describing awe and reverence? (4 words)
3. The gift that will help us to see things as they are.
4. What gift do need when we give advice to others?
5. This gift helps us to know what to do in the difficult situations of life (2 words)
6. Another word for reverence

Answers: Across: 2: awe and wonder; 3: joy; 4: peace; 5: love; 6: fortitude; 7: courage; 8: reverence; Down: 1: fear of the Lord; 3: understanding; 4: wisdom; 5: right judgement; 6: piety

# About our mission

## Activity Sheet

People come to believe in Jesus by what we say and do, by seeing Jesus in our lives. Think of some of the things you say and do that help people to see Jesus in your life. Make a note of one or two of them:

Think of some of the ways you will contribute to your community

at home

at school

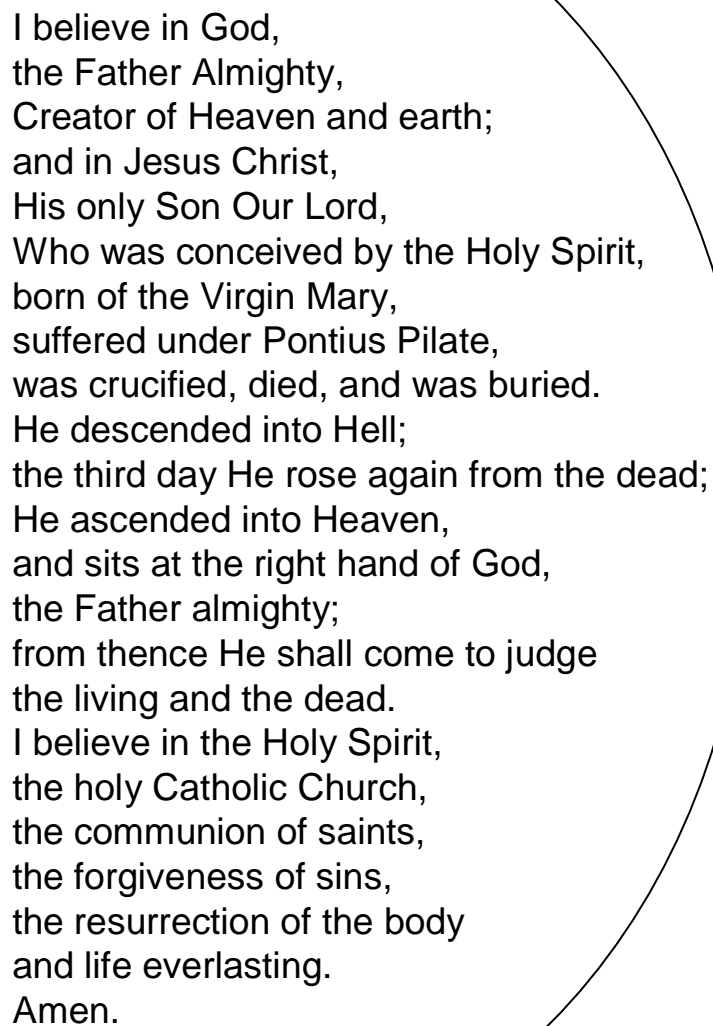
in the parish

in the neighbourhood

and in the world

# The Apostles' Creed

Activity Sheet – Learn the words of the prayer and decorate this sheet



I believe in God,  
the Father Almighty,  
Creator of Heaven and earth;  
and in Jesus Christ,  
His only Son Our Lord,  
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into Hell;  
the third day He rose again from the dead;  
He ascended into Heaven,  
and sits at the right hand of God,  
the Father almighty;  
from thence He shall come to judge  
the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body  
and life everlasting.  
Amen.

# The Lord's Prayer

Activity Sheet – Learn the words of the prayer and decorate this sheet

Our Father,  
who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come.  
Thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in Heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
Amen.



# About the Sacrament of Reconciliation

## Activity Sheet 1: God forgives our sins. Fill in the blanks

To prepare ourselves, we take some time to think about things we are \_\_\_\_\_ for, times when we have not behaved like \_\_\_\_\_. We begin by remembering God's love for us and, to help us, we might read a passage from \_\_\_\_\_.

Then we go and talk with the \_\_\_\_\_ about those things. These are things we are sorry for – not things that happen by accident, but things we do even when we know we should not. This is our \_\_\_\_\_.

He may ask us to do something afterwards, to be \_\_\_\_\_ to the one we were unkind to, to give \_\_\_\_\_ something we have taken — or he may ask us to say a prayer. (This is called our \_\_\_\_\_.)

The priest will ask us to say a \_\_\_\_\_ telling God that we are sorry. (This is called an \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.) You might have your own 'sorry' prayer or you might say this one:

Forgive me, Father, for the times when I have not behaved like Jesus. Help me to accept your forgiveness. Help me to do better. I will try to do better because I love you. Thank You for forgiving me.

The priest will then say a prayer (called \_\_\_\_\_) to tell us that God forgives us and he says something like: "All your sins are \_\_\_\_\_, go in the Lord's peace." And you say, " \_\_\_\_\_" and "Thank you, God."

# About the Sacrament of Reconciliation

## Activity Sheet 2: Word

Words associated with the Sacrament of Reconciliation are hidden in the puzzle. See if you can find them!

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

JESUS, RECONCILIATION, CONFESSION, PENANCE, SINS, PRIEST,  
SORRY FORGIVENESS, PRAYERS, CONTRITION, ACT, OF, ABSOLUTION,  
PEACE, GOD, FAULT, BLESS, SIGN, CROSS

Words to find:

## About the Beatitudes Activity Sheet








Give examples of how the Beatitudes can be lived out in today's world.

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven
2. Blessed are the gentle; they shall inherit the earth.
3. Blessed are those who mourn; they shall be comforted.
4. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after justice; they shall be satisfied.
5. Blessed are the merciful; they shall obtain mercy.
6. Blessed are the pure of heart; they shall see God.
7. Blessed are the peacemakers; they shall be called the children of God.
8. Blessed are they that suffer persecution for justice's sake; theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Possible answers: 1. spending time with a sick friend and not go out for fun; 2. befriending the shy and those who lack confidence; 3. comforting those who need it; 4. by not getting involved in gossip; 5. forgiving even when it is very difficult; 6. by not being jealous or yearning to be popular at all costs; 7. by being against violence; 8. by not making fun of those who believe in an issue of justice (or in God).

# About the Sacraments

Activity Sheet: Explain the sacraments in the pictures

	Baptism
	Confirmation
	Eucharist
	Reconciliation
	Ordination
	Marriage
	Sacrament of the Sick