

Sixth Sunday of Easter

9th May 2021

Preparing the prayer space

Place a white cloth on the table or floor (white – the colour for Easter)

Place a cross, bible and candle on it. Light the candle or use a battery-operated candle for safety. Add any other symbols relevant to your family.

Prepare materials

- YouTube as listed on sheet: Scripture story and song
- Suggested activities: your choice or other related activity on sheet
- Print out sheet if required



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Gather around the prayer space as a family

Parent/Caregiver:

Today, we hear that Jesus tells us that his love for us is so great as to lay his life down for his friends.

Opening prayer: Lord God, we ask you to deepen our love for those around us.

Gospel: A reading from the holy gospel according to John (15:9-14).

All: Glory to you O, Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples:

“I have loved you, just as my Father has loved me. So make sure that I keep on loving you. If you obey me, I will keep loving you, just as my Father keeps loving me, because I have obeyed him.

“I have told you this to make you completely happy as I am. Now I tell you to love each other, as I have loved you. The greatest way to show love for friends is to die for them. And you are my friends if you obey me.”

The gospel of the Lord. All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

(Gospel text © Lectionary for Masses with Children (1993) Catholic Book Publishing Co. New York)

Prayerfully watch the videos together

Friend of Jesus <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5AfiENC7nY> (2:26min)

Scripture reflection and time of sharing:

I wonder what Jesus meant by, “I have loved you, just as my Father has loved me” ...
I wonder how much Jesus loves us...

I wonder if Jesus' disciples understood Jesus' words...
I wonder if Jesus' words changed the disciples' attitudes and actions...
I wonder how I can grow in love for others...

Let us sing together our beliefs as Christians:

I Believe - John Burland ft. Genevieve Bryant

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mvYbfojVKGQ> (4 mins)

Intercessions: Let us now spend some time in prayer asking God to listen to our needs.
(*We respond to the prayers by saying the words 'Lord, hear our prayer'*)

1 We pray for Pope Francis, Archbishop Patrick O'Regan, all Church and world leaders: that they can continue to be great leaders who care and love for others as Jesus did.
Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

2 We pray for the children and families who are preparing for their Sacraments of Initiation that during this time they will draw nearer to God.
Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

3 We pray that our Church will grow to love others by open to and seeing the needs of others.
Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

4 We pause for a moment and pray in our hearts or aloud for any intentions or people we would like to pray for at this time (*pause*)
Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

6 We pray for all people who have died recently and or are suffering at this time. May they find their resting place with Jesus.
Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

Closing prayer: Loving God, Jesus showed great love through his words and actions. May we grow to understand how to best love others through the way we treat and speak to our friends, family, and neighbours. Amen.

Closing song: *No Greater Love*- Fr. Rob Galea

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XXixy4wIXsc> (3:30 mins)

Follow up activity suggestions after the time of prayer has end.

- **Prayer journal**
Write a prayer to Jesus in your prayer journal (special notebook).
- **Acts of Kindness**
What better way to show our love to others but through our actions and words. Find some small ways to spread love and kindness through this site:
<https://www.givingartfullykids.com/blog/40-acts-of-kindness>
- **Family Connection**
Spend some discussing the word *generosity* as a family.
<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/sixth-sunday-of-easter-cycle-b-sunday-connection/>