

### Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February

# Enjoy reading this Sunday's Gospel

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Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not imagine that I have come to destroy what the Law or the Prophets taught. No, I have come to make them complete – to show you what they meant. I tell you truly, until heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, not one little stroke of a pen, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practises and teaches these commands, will be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

#### Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 12th February 2023. Matt. 5:17-37 (the 6th Sunday of Ordinary Time)

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 **TEACHER**.

Jesus said, "Whoever practises and teaches these commands, will be called great in the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:19

To colour the picture for this Sunday's Gospel, please see the back page.

### 2 Wednesday's Word TEACHER @

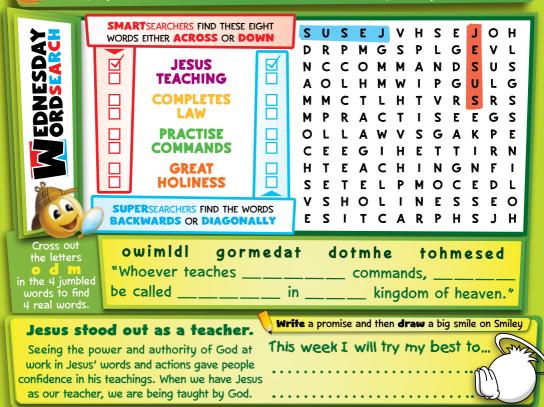
#### "Let us thank all those who teach in Catholic schools. Educating is an act of love; it is like giving life." Pope Francis

What did Jesus say that people who practise and teach God's commands would be called? In this Sunday's Gospel (taken from the Sermon on the Mount), Jesus teaches us how important it is to follow God's laws; our Catholic schools and parishes try very hard to do the same. Ask your child what the word 'teacher' means to them. Ask them which people teach them about God - at home, at school or in the community. What have they recently been taught about God? Who is their favourite teacher, and why? Perhaps you can tell your child about a person you know who is, or was, a good teacher, and say why.

#### "The family is where parents become their children's first teachers in the faith. The family's strength lies in its capacity to love and to teach how to love." Pope Francis

It's important to have good teachers. Parents are the first and foremost educators of their own children - others can also teach us so much about what really matters in life. Each of you choose someone who teaches you good and right things, and say a prayer for them. How can we show our appreciation to all those who teach us? Perhaps we can: be a good learner by really listening to what they have to say; do the good and right things they have taught us; simply thank them for being a good teacher.

Dear Lord Jesus, please bless all the people in my life who teach me. Thank you for being my friend and teacher. Please help me to learn and grow in your love. Amen.



### Wednesday 15th February



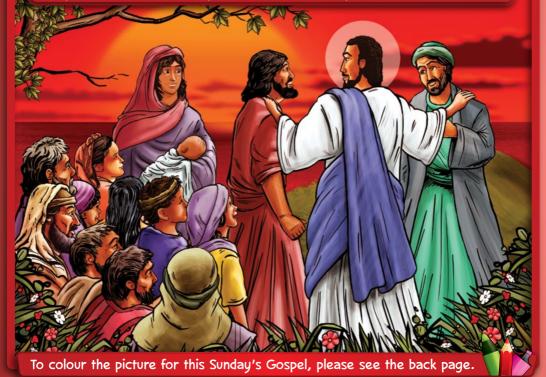
### 1

## Enjoy reading this Sunday's Gospel

Jesus said to his disciples: "You have learnt how it was said: you must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who are unkind to you and say bad things about you; in this way you will be sons and daughters of God, your Father in heaven. For God causes his sun to rise on good and bad people, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest people alike. For if you love only those who love you, why should you be rewarded? Even sinners do that! And if you are friendly only to the people you like, are you doing anything exceptional? Even those who do not know God behave like that. You must therefore be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect."

Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 19th February 2023. Matt. 5:38-48 (the 7th Sunday of Ordinary Time)

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 LOVE.



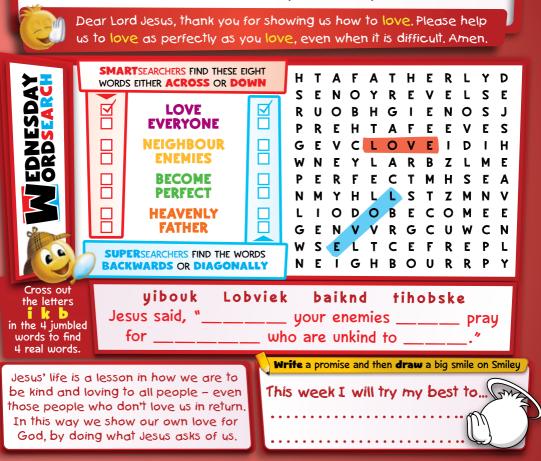
### "Let us ask the Lord for the grace not to speak badly of others, not to criticise, but rather to love everyone." Pope Francis

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What did Jesus say we should do to be sons and daughters of God? Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, which we continue to read in this Sunday's Gospel, is one of the most well-known passages in the Bible and has guided people in the ways of true love throughout the ages. Everyone likes to be loved. Ask your child what the word 'love' means to them. Who makes them feel especially loved: a) at home? b) at school? c) at Church or in the community? When did your child last show love towards someone? How did they show their love?

### "The proof of love is in the works. Where love exists, it works great things." Pope St. Gregory the Great

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus calls us to do something exceptional: we must love all people, regardless of how they treat us. Life becomes more joyful when we follow Jesus' command to love one another. Each of you decide on something you can do in the coming days to grow in love - to love as Jesus loves. Perhaps you can: show and tell family members how much you love them through unexpected acts of kindness; be peacemakers; pray for anyone whom you may find difficult to like; forgive someone and be friends again. Come and learn more about Jesus' law of love in Church this Sunday. All are warmly invited.



## Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February Good News

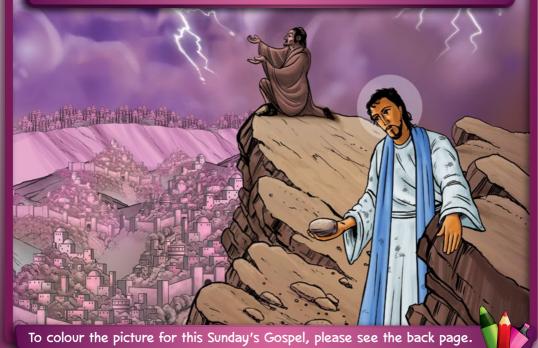
## 1

# Enjoy reading this Sunday's Gospel

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, turn these stones into loaves." But Jesus replied with God's word saying, "Scripture says: 'Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" The tempter then took him to the top of the Temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down; for scripture says: 'He will put you in his angels' charge and they will come to save you.'" Jesus said to him, "Scripture also says: 'You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Next, the tempter showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. "I will give you all these," he said, "if you fall at my feet and worship me." Then Jesus replied, "Be off, Satan! For scripture says: 'You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.'" Then the tempter left him, and angels appeared and looked after Jesus.

Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 26th February 2023. Matthew 4:1-11 (the 1st Sunday of Lent, 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 **LENT**.



### "Lent is a 'powerful' season, a turning point that can foster change in each of us." Pope Francis

How many days did Jesus spend in the wilderness? In this Sunday's Gospel Jesus relied on God's word to resist temptation. Lent is a time for us to make an extra effort to listen carefully to God's word, to try and make a change for the better by turning away from things which are wrong for ourselves or others. Ask your child what the word 'Lent' means to them. You may want to tell your child something that you know about Lent. Each of you say if there is anything you would like to start or stop doing this Lent.

### \*Lent is a time for drawing near to Christ by listening to the word of God and celebrating the sacraments.\* Pope Francis

The Latin name for the season of Lent is 'Quadragesima' which means "forty days" or "fortieth day." This reminds us of Jesus' 40 days of fasting and prayer in the wilderness, where he grew stronger through resisting various temptations. How can we strengthen ourselves to resist temptations throughout Lent? Perhaps we can: set aside a few minutes each day to pray, asking God to help us; read God's word in the Bible or in *The Wednesday Word*; regularly say the 'Our Father' together, thinking carefully about each sentence; go to church together; fast from a meal or snack and give the money saved to charity.

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.

