

## May 2021

May is a busy month in the Church calendar. During this month we come to the end of Eastertide, celebrate the Ascension and receive the Holy Spirit at Pentecost!

The disciples no doubt experienced a whole wide range of emotions during this time, and, especially as the world starts to open up again after lockdown, it might feel like we're experiencing a rollercoaster time too. However, the predominant attitude during this season is that of celebration. In this newsletter, we share with you some resources that your children have experienced in school.

### Feeling Fruitful

**Jesus said, "I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing."  
John 15:5**

In the week commencing 3<sup>rd</sup> May, children learned that to produce **good fruit, the branch with the grapes must be attached to the vine**. If not, the grapes won't grow. They need the sap within the vine to flow up and into the branches to feed the grapes, so that the branches produce good fruit.

When Jesus says, 'remain in me', **He is telling us to stay close to Him** so that the Holy Spirit can grow good 'fruit' in our lives, like love and kindness.

Children watched a short video about the work of **Mission Together**, a charity that helps children to share love and kindness with other children around the world. This video, voiced by an actor, shows how **Mission Together** have helped some children in Cambodia:

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-newsletter/>

Children learned that we can stay close to Jesus through prayer, listening to the Gospel, receiving Holy Communion and sharing what we have with others, and that we can be inspired by the good 'fruit' growing in other people's lives, e.g. Sr Eulie helping the children in Cambodia and the children here in the UK praying for the Cambodian children and raising money for their centre.

You might like to:

- Plant some seeds with your child and discuss what they need to grow, to reinforce the message that to grow 'fruit' we need to stay close to Jesus.
- Discuss how 'good deeds' aren't restricted to people who believe in Jesus. Anyone can do a good thing! But Jesus promises that when people are motivated by the love of God and commit to share that love with others through their actions, He will ensure that these actions 'bear fruit'.

## “I Call You Friends”

The assembly for the week commencing 10<sup>th</sup> May explores the theme of friendship. In the Gospel for that week, Jesus says: “A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends...I call you friends.” (**John 15: 9 – 17**)

After discussing the key qualities of good friendships, children watched a film where a young man called George talks about his friendship with his brother Jimmy, who was tragically killed 13 years ago. George was just 8 years old at the time and he really missed the friendship he had with his brother. However, George feels that he is still being a friend to Jimmy, and that Jimmy is still being a friend to George, even though he is now in heaven. You might like to watch George’s story with your child:

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-newsletter/>

Children learned that Jesus desperately wants to be friends with them, and that friendship with Jesus leads us to love others as He asks us to.

You might like to:

- Share about a friend you have and why they are so important to you.
- Talk with your child further about the themes raised by this film, including death and grief.

## Prayer

May 1<sup>st</sup> is the Feast of St Joseph the Worker. As part of our **The Year of St Joseph** resources, we have produced a video prayer about what 'work' is, and why it is important, including Pope Francis's explanation that when we work, whether for money or not, we are working with God Himself and **'in some way become creators of the world around us'!**

Why not watch it together with your child:

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-newsletter/>