A Weekly Gift to you and your family from your Catholic School

THE Wednesday WORD

SHARING SUNDAY'S GOSPEL WITH PARENTS & FAMILIES

Wednesday 25th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As well as showing the power given to Jesus by his Father, this Sunday's Gospel reminds us of Jesus' humanity. Jesus was upset by Lazarus' death and wept for him.

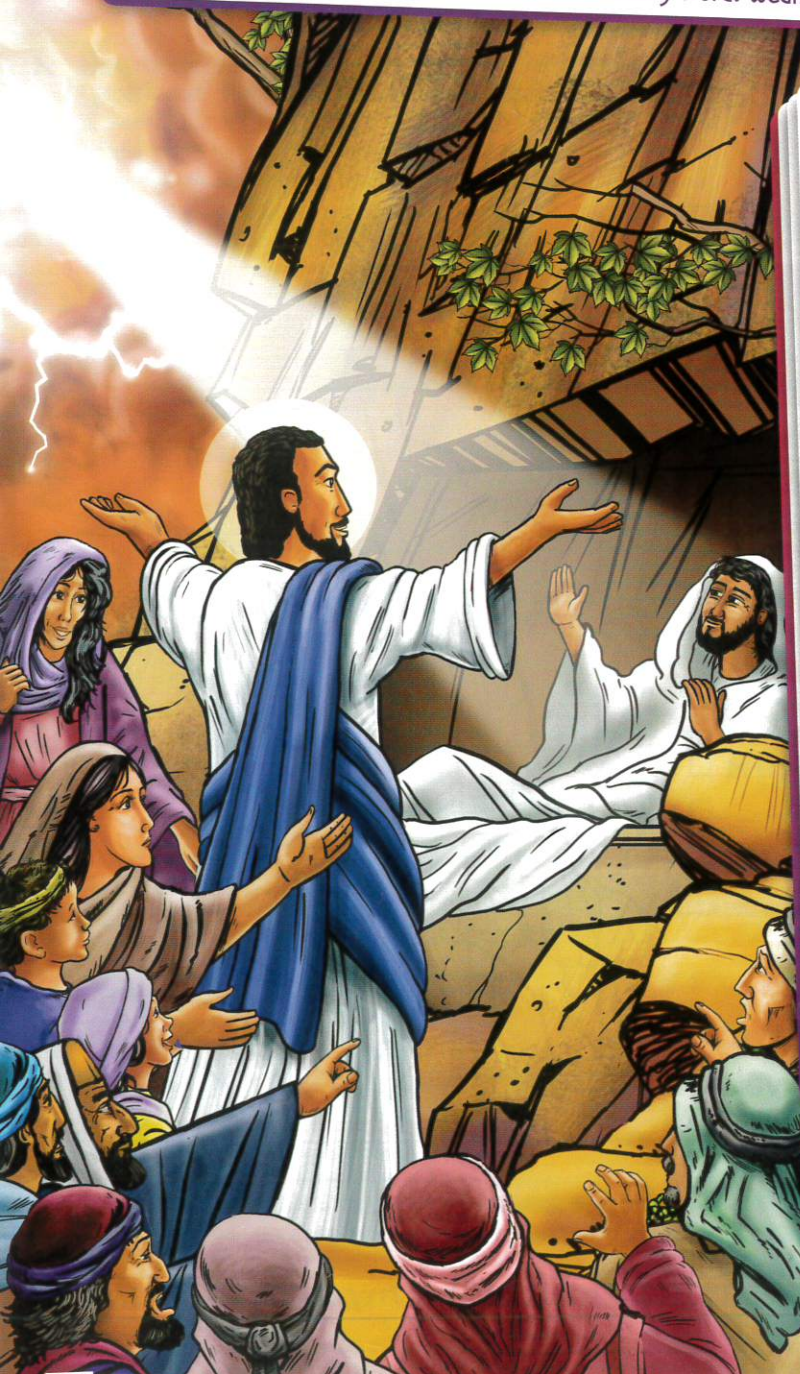
His compassion for Lazarus and Lazarus' family mirrors his compassion for each one of us when we are upset. We too can experience Jesus' compassion through other people and through spending time with God in prayer.

Compassion is an attractive quality. Our own example in daily life can help our children become more compassionate. St Vincent de Paul reminds us, "We should strive to keep our hearts open to the sufferings of other people, and pray continually that God may grant us that spirit of compassion."

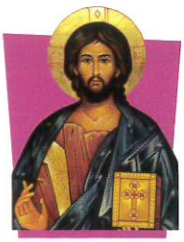
Enjoy exploring this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **COMPASSION**.

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 29th March 2020



There was a friend of Jesus named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany with his two sisters, Mary and Martha, and he was very ill. The sisters sent a message to Jesus. But, by the time Jesus had arrived at their home, Lazarus had died. As soon as Lazarus' sister, Mary, saw Jesus she threw herself at his feet, crying. At the sight of her tears, Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, "Where have you put him?" So they took Jesus to Lazarus' tomb. Jesus wept. "Roll the stone away," he said. Then he cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" Then Lazarus, who had been dead, came out with his feet, hands and face wrapped in strips of burial cloth. Jesus said, "Unbind him: let him go free." Many of the people there saw what Jesus had done and believed in him.

Adapted from John 11:1-45

The 5th Sunday of Lent, Year A

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

"That which gives us true freedom and true happiness is the compassionate love of Christ." *Pope Francis*

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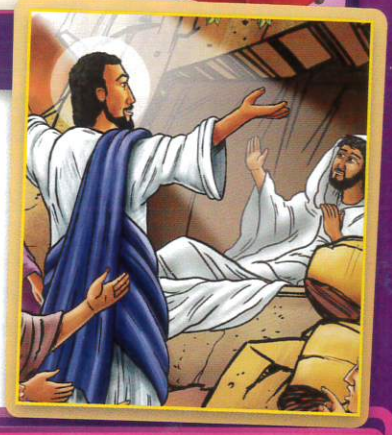
Good News for Families

Jesus is compassionate, he came to take away fear, sadness and loneliness - to help us feel loved, accepted and supported. He asks us to notice when other people need us and to show compassion by doing what we can to help and support them.

1 Our Special Time Together

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



Lazarus, a friend of Jesus, was very ill. So his two sisters, Mary and Martha, sent a message to Jesus. But, by the time Jesus arrived, Mary threw herself at his feet, crying because Lazarus had died. At the sight of her tears, Jesus said, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, "Where have you put him?" So they took Jesus to Lazarus' tomb. Jesus wept. "Roll the stone away," he said. Then he shouted out, "Lazarus, come out!" Then Lazarus, who had been dead, came out with his feet, hands and face wrapped in strips of burial cloth. Jesus said, "Unbind him: let him go free." Many of the people there saw what Jesus had done and believed in him.

What did Jesus do as soon as he saw Lazarus' tomb? Which word stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? See the Gospel picture opposite. What does it make you think about?

2 Wednesday's Word is ... COMPASSION

"Blessed are the compassionate."
St Chromatius (of Aquileia)

Ask your child what the word 'compassion' means to them. Who is the most compassionate person they know, who really listens when they have a problem? Ask them if they can remember a time when someone showed them care and compassion - what did they do? **To be compassionate is to share someone's suffering - to feel sorrow for their situation and to do something about it. It may help your child if you can talk about a person whom you know to be compassionate.**

3 Loving God & Each Other

"What we say and how we say it ought to express God's compassion and tenderness for all." *Pope Francis*

Jesus knew that Martha and Mary were sad and he did what he could to help them. People saw this and started to believe in Jesus. Today we can show people how good Jesus is and help others to believe in him by the way we live. Ask your child if they can remember when they last felt sorry for someone and helped them. **As a family, ask yourselves, "Is there anyone who needs our compassion and our help at this time? What could we do?"**

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for the gift of everlasting life. Please help us to be more **compassionate** as we journey through Lent together. Amen.

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

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

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER **ACROSS** OR **DOWN**

- MARY
- MARTHA
- BROTHER
- DIED
- JESUS
- COMPASSION
- LAZARUS
- ALIVE

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS **BACKWARDS** OR **DIAGONALLY**

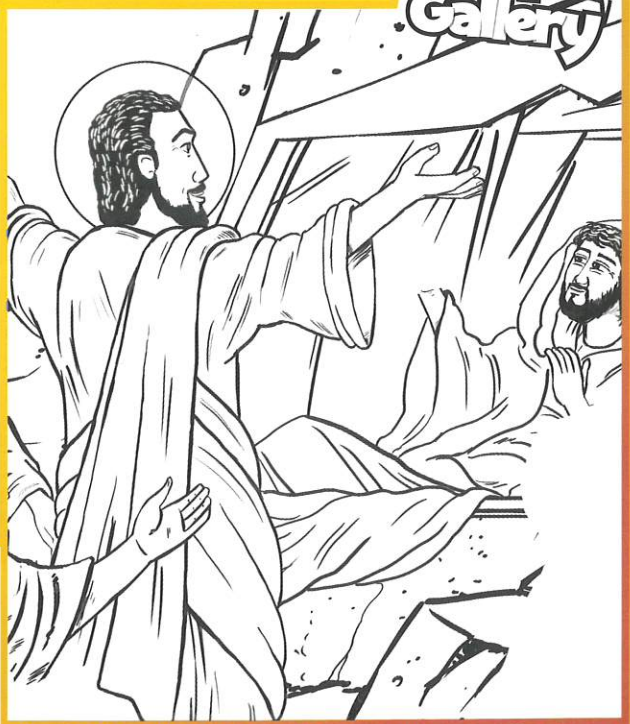
Cross out the letters **m n w** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

Lamzawruns wonumt criwmend lonumdw

Then Jesus _____ out in a _____ voice,

"_____, come _____!"

Gospel Gallery



Search for at least three differences between this picture and the colour one. Then draw them in before colouring.

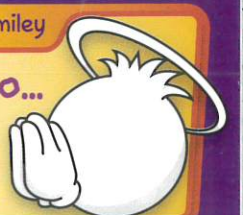
Compassion is a virtue and it brings out the best in us. A simple way to grow in compassion is to say extra prayers for people who we know to be suffering or unwell in some way, whilst being ready to be kind to them in other ways too.

Write a promise and then **draw** a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to...

.....

.....



For more, see: **wednesdayword.org** and **cbcew.org.uk**