

ALLELUIA! JESUS IS RISEN ALLELUIA!

VISUAL AIDS

- A decorative Easter candle.
- Empty tomb, e.g. made from a table and blankets. The linen cloths.
- Large cross made from wood or card.
- Spring flowers with which to decorate it.
- or*
- Empty tomb. Basket of eggs. (*Hard boiled*).
- Cut-out card egg for each child.

SHARING

- Gather and welcome the children.
- Give them time to look at the display.
- Today is special. Today is Easter Day.
- What do we celebrate on Easter Day?
- Jesus is risen. Jesus is alive.
- Sing a joyful Easter song/Gloria.*
- We are now going to find out what happened on the first Easter Day.

WELCOME AND PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

A reading from the Good News given to us by St John.
Glory to you, Lord Jesus.

the ground and he saw the cloth that had covered Jesus' head. This cloth was rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who reached the tomb first also went in. He saw and he believed. Jesus is risen from the dead.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus is risen, Jesus has won.
He is risen, he is risen.
We can be happy.

Alleluia.

Time: Morning has broken

Very early in the morning on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb where they had buried Jesus. She saw that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance to the tomb. She came running to Simon Peter and the

other disciples, 'They have taken Jesus out of the tomb and we don't know where they have put him,' she said. Peter and the other disciples set out to go to the tomb. They ran together. One disciple ran faster than the others; he bent down and saw the linen cloths that had wrapped Jesus lying on the ground, but he did not go in. Peter now came up and went straight into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths on

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

DISCUSSION

- Who came to the tomb first?
- What did Mary see?
- What did Mary do?
- What did Peter and the disciples do?
- What did the first disciple to reach the tomb do?
- What did he see?
- Who came next?
- What did Peter do?

- What did Peter see?
- Who saw and believed?
- What did the disciple believe?

ACTIVITIES

- Mime the story.
- Give each child an opportunity to go into the empty tomb. Jesus is not there.
- Either* decorate the cross with flowers,

COMMUNITY LINK

or show the children the eggs. New life is in the eggs. We cannot see it. We believe. Children write their names on a *card* egg and decorate it. Place the eggs with the text: Jesus is risen. We believe.

Children rejoin the congregation, bringing the cloths from the tomb and something from the activity chosen.
Text: Jesus is risen. Alleluia!

or make an Easter garden.

WE BELIEVE IN JESUS



VISUAL AIDS

Card or wooden cross covered with gold foil paper. Easter candle. Spring flowers.
Large cardboard egg made to open. Paper chicken for each child inside the egg. Text: *We believe in Jesus* (on card).

SHARING

Gather and welcome the children. All around us everything is coming to life. The flowers, trees, lambs, etc. Like springtime Easter is a time of new life. The new life Jesus died on the cross for and rose again to give us. The cross is the sign of Jesus' glory. Let us praise God for the new life of Jesus.

Sing a Gloria known to the children.
Today Thomas helps us to believe in the new life of Jesus.

WELCOME AND PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

Alleluia, alleluia.
Now we believe, Lord, Yes we believe. You bring us new life, Peace and forgiveness. Alleluia, alleluia.

Tune: Morning has broken

A reading from the Good News given to us by St John.
Glory to you, Lord Jesus.

One of the twelve disciples, Thomas called the twin, was not with the others when Jesus came and stood among them, after he had died on the cross. The others told him, 'We have seen the Lord Jesus.' Thomas said, 'I will not believe until I see for myself the scars the nails made in his

hands and put my finger in the holes and my hand into his side.'
A week went by. The disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. He said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here, look here are my hands. Give me your hand: put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.'

Thomas said, 'My Lord and my God.'

Jesus said, 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and believe.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

DISCUSSION

What did the disciples tell Thomas?
Why was their news so special?
Why had Thomas not seen Jesus?
What did Thomas say to the disciples?
How long was it before Jesus came to the house again?
What did Jesus say to Thomas?

ACTIVITIES

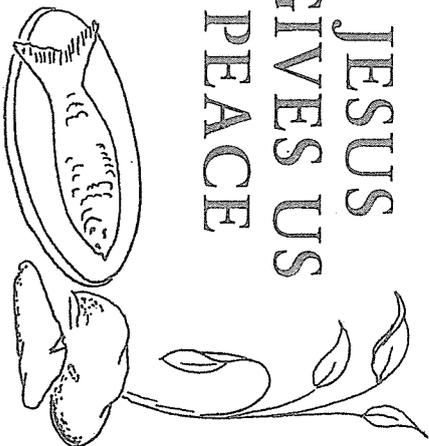
Have the children mime the two scenes.
Mark the passing of the week. What might the disciples have done during the eight days?
Jesus said, 'Blessed are those who have not seen and believe.'
Without seeing we believe that there

COMMUNITY LINK

Children rejoin the congregation bringing the cross and text: *We believe in Jesus*, and the large egg. How can we witness to our belief in the new life of Jesus?

is new life in the egg.
Open the egg. Inside is a chicken for each child. Each time children see an egg say the prayer: Lord we have not seen. *We believe.*

JESUS GIVES US PEACE



VISUAL AIDS

Card or wooden cross covered with gold foil. Easter candle. Spring flowers. Cooked fish or chocolate sardines. Map of the world. Text: Jesus gives us peace (on card). Candle or night-light for each child.

SHARING

Gather and welcome the children. What can you do because you are alive? Talk, sing, jump, clap, see, hear... Give glory to God. *Sing a Gloria.* Today Jesus is alive. Jesus shows himself alive to his friends after he had died on the cross and been buried in the tomb. Listen for the gift Jesus gives to his friends. Listen to what he asks them to do, and what he had to eat.

WELCOME AND PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

Alleluia, alleluia.
We hear your word now.
We'll spread your peace.
We'll share your love with
Everyone near us.
Alleluia, alleluia.
Time: Morning has broken

A reading from the Good News given to us by St Luke.
Glory to you, Lord Jesus.

The friends of Jesus were gathered in the house. They were talking about how Jesus had been seen on the road to Emmaus and by Simon. While they were talking, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' They were

they watched. Then Jesus explained to them why he had to die and rise again to bring peace to the world. 'You are my witnesses to all these things,' he told them.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

DISCUSSION

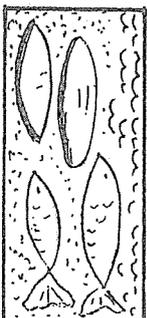
Where were Jesus' friends?
What were they talking about?
Why were they frightened?
How did Jesus prove he was not a ghost?
What did Jesus give to his friends?
What did he ask them for?
What did he help his friends to understand?
What did Jesus say his friends were to do?

ACTIVITIES

Children mime the Gospel.
Look at the map of the world.
Each child chooses a country, lights a candle and prays for the peace of Jesus to come to that country.
Sing a peace hymn.

COMMUNITY LINK

Children rejoin the congregation, bringing the cross and map of the world. Invite the congregation to join in a prayer or hymn with the children for world peace.



LOVING SHEPHERD



VISUAL AIDS

Card or wooden cross covered with gold foil paper. Easter candle. Spring flowers. Shepherds and sheep from the crib. Picture of a wolf. Text: Loving Shepherd (on card). Sheep cut-outs.

SHARING

Gather and welcome the children. Invite them to share what they know about shepherds and sheep. Remember the shepherds of Bethlehem who were the first to visit Jesus. Sing the *Gloria* they heard. Why do shepherds have a very dangerous job? List some of the dangers,

e.g. thieves, wolves, lost sheep. Today Jesus tells us that he is the good shepherd. Let us listen and find out why Jesus is the good shepherd.

WELCOME AND PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

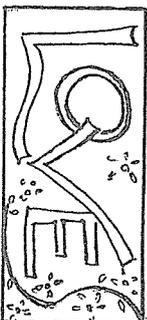
Alleluia, alleluia.
Lord you're our shepherd,
We are your sheep.
You keep us safely.
You love us dearly.
Alleluia, alleluia.
Tune: Morning has broken

A reading from the Good News given to us by St John.
Glory to you, Lord Jesus.

Jesus said,
'I am the good shepherd, I am willing to give my life for my sheep. A hired man leaves the sheep and runs away when he sees a wolf coming. The wolf attacks the sheep and scatters them. The hired man does not care what

happens to the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and I will give my life for my sheep.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



DISCUSSION

What is a hired man?
What does the hired man do when the sheep are in danger?
Why doesn't he stay to help the sheep?
Why is Jesus the good shepherd?
Jesus loves his sheep so much that he will never run away and leave them, no matter how great the danger.

ACTIVITIES

Like Jesus many other people love us dearly and care for us.
Who are some of these people?
How do they show love and care?
On the sheep cut-outs children write the names of those who love them dearly.
The children can also write a prayer for those who love them.

COMMUNITY LINK

Children rejoin the congregation, bringing the cross, their sheep, text: Loving Shepherd. Invite the children to share their prayers with the congregation. Perhaps we could be more appreciative of services rendered to the parish.

JESUS TRUE VINE



VISUAL AIDS

- Card or wooden cross covered with gold foil paper. Easter candle.
- Spring flowers.
- Picture of a vine. Bunch of grapes.
- Plant with some dead leaves/branches.
- Scissors/scateurs.
- Large vine drawn on card.
- Text: Jesus, true vine (on card).

SHARING

- Gather and welcome the children.
- Talk about how to care for plants.
- Pruning roses to help more to grow.
- Demonstrate with the plant how to cut away the dead bits to help the healthy parts to grow.
- Let us praise God for all the wonderful plants that grow. *Sing a Gloria.*
- Today Jesus tells us how the vine is

pruned so that it will grow strong and healthy and produce lots of lovely grapes.

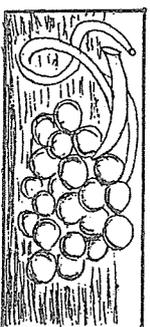
WELCOME AND PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

Alleluia, alleluia.
We are the branches,
You are the vine.
Help us to stay, Lord,
close to you always.
Alleluia, alleluia.
Tune: Morning has broken

A reading from the Good News given to us by St John.
Glory to you, Lord Jesus.

Jesus says,
‘I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more.
A branch cut off from the vine cannot

bear fruit by itself. I am the vine, you are the branches. Remain in me and you will bear much fruit.’
This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



DISCUSSION

- How does Jesus describe himself today?
- How does Jesus describe us?
- Who looks after the vine?
- The vinedresser is God our Father. What does Jesus want the branches to do?
- What does Jesus say is the best way to grow plenty of fruit?

What are some of the fruits Jesus would like us to grow?

ACTIVITIES

- On the large vine each child writes their name on a branch.
- Children then link hands to make a vine.
- Child at the centre represents Jesus.

COMMUNITY LINK

Holding hands the children rejoin the congregation, bringing the cross, text: Jesus, true vine, grapes. Invite the congregation to add their names to the vine after Mass.

LOVE ONE ANOTHER



VISUAL AIDS

Card or wooden cross covered with gold foil paper. Easter candle. Spring flowers.
Pictures of people of different nations or national flags or mementos.
Text: Love one another and some names of nations (on cards). Night-lights.

SHARING

Gather and welcome the children. Next week, on Thursday, we celebrate a very special day. We call it Ascension Day. On Ascension Day we remember how Jesus returned to his Father in heaven. Jesus said that he would be happy for ever if we would love one another in the way he had shown us. Let us praise and thank God for loving us by singing the *Gloria*.

Listen now to what Jesus tells us about loving.

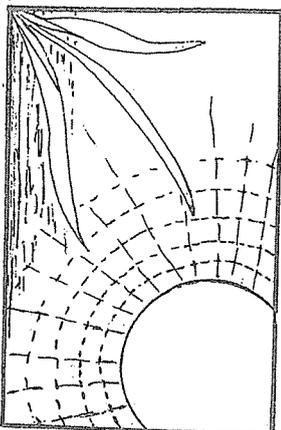
WELCOME AND PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

Alleluia, alleluia,
We will love you and
Keep your word.
Praise you for loving
All here upon earth.
Alleluia, alleluia.
Time: Morning has broken

A reading from the Good News given to us by St John.
Glory to you, Lord Jesus.

Jesus said to his friends:
'I love you just as the Father loves me; remain in my love.
My commandment is this: love one another just as I love you.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



DISCUSSION

How much does Jesus say he loves us?
What is the commandment of Jesus?
How do we love one another?
Jesus wants everyone in the whole world to love one another.

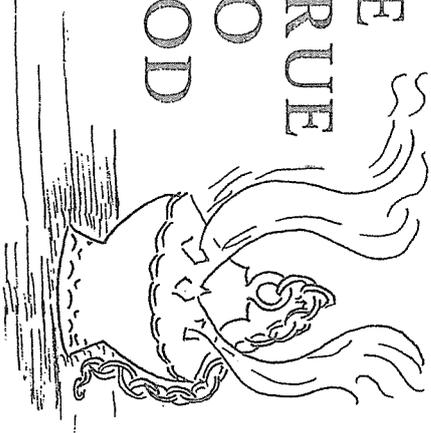
ACTIVITIES

Invite the children to name the nations represented in the display and choose one.
Give each child the name of 'their' nation and a night-light. Place the night-lights with the name cards and light them.
Children hold hands, sing a peace hymn.

COMMUNITY LINK

Children rejoin the congregation, bringing the cross, text: Love one another, and the pictures or flags, etc. representing the different nationalities. Perhaps we could all find the opportunity during the week to speak to someone of a nationality different from our own.

BE TRUE TO GOD



VISUAL AIDS

Card or wooden cross covered with gold foil paper. Easter candle. Spring flowers. Prayer book.
Text: Be true to God (on card).
Cut-out hand shape for each child.
Reflective music.

SHARING

Gather and welcome the children. Read some prayers from the prayer book. Invite the children to share some of their favourite prayers. When we pray who are we speaking to?
Invite the children to share some of their ideas of God.
At Jesus' birth angels sang a beautiful

prayer of praise and glory to God. Let us sing it now. *Gloria*. Jesus told his friends what God is really like. When Jesus prayed he called God Father. Pray the Our Father. Today we are going to hear some more prayers of Jesus.

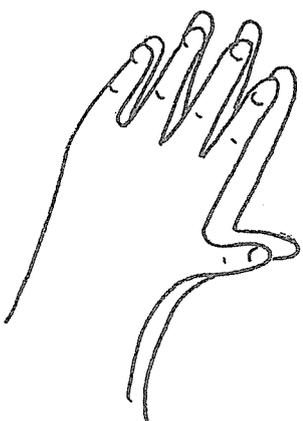
WELCOME AND PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

Alleluia, alleluia.
To God our Father
With joy we pray.
Thank you for Jesus.
Praise be your glory.
Alleluia, alleluia.
Tune: Morning has broken

A reading from the Good News given to us by St John.
Glory to you, Lord Jesus.

Jesus looked up to heaven and said: 'Holy Father, keep those you have given me true to your name, so that they may be one like us.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



DISCUSSION

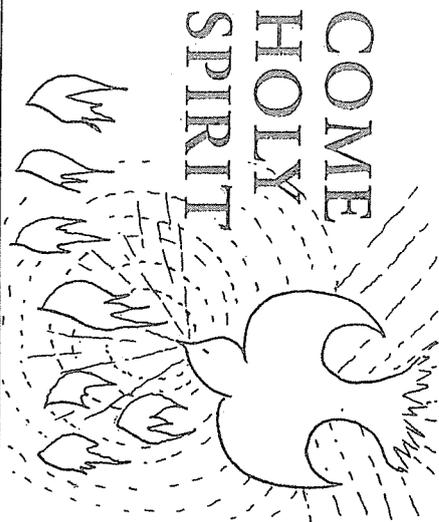
When Jesus prayed he looked up to heaven.
Who did he pray for?
What did he ask his Father, God, to do for his friends.
Why did Jesus want his friends to be 'true to God's name'?
Jesus loves us, his friends, so much he wants us to be as close to God as he is.

ACTIVITIES

Play prayerful music.
Children sit quietly and think about Jesus praying for them to be very close to God.
Prayer helps us to come closer to God.
Give each child a cut-out hand shape.
On the hand children write their name and, Father keep me true to you.
Children may be able to write their own prayers in the fingers of the hand.

COMMUNITY LINK

Children rejoin the congregation, bringing the cross, text: Be true to God, and some of the prayers they have written to share with the congregation.



VISUAL AIDS

Pictures or flags of different nationalities.
 Birthday cake with seven candles or night-lights. Seven gift wrapped packages, inside each one a card with the name of a gift of the Spirit written on one side and illustrated on the other (joy; love; patience; kindness; understanding; reverence; courage).

Text: Come Holy Spirit (on card).
 Flame or dove shape cut-outs.

SHARING

Gather and welcome the children.
 Invite them to share how they celebrate birthdays: receiving cards, gifts, etc.
 Gifts often help us to do something, e.g. play football, read, paint, etc.
 Today is a special birthday. It is the

birthday of the Church. It is a celebration for us. We call today Pentecost Sunday. On the first Pentecost day after Jesus ascended to heaven, his friends, the apostles, all met in one room. Suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise filled the whole house where they were sitting; something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these

separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak in foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

them preaching in our own language about all the wonders of God.
 Now let us listen to St John telling us about the gift of the Holy Spirit.

At that time there were people of many different nations living in Jerusalem; they were amazed because everyone heard the apostles speaking in their own language. They said, 'We hear

WELCOME AND PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

Alleluia, alleluia.
 Spirit come to you and me,
 Come and set our hearts on fire.
Alleluia, alleluia.

Time: Peace is flowing like a river

A reading from the Good News given to us by St John.
 Glory to you, Lord Jesus.

The disciples were filled with joy at seeing the Lord. Jesus said to them, 'Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I send you.' Then Jesus breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit...'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
 Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

DISCUSSION

Jesus gives us the Holy Spirit to help us to continue to spread the good news of the wonders of God.

The Holy Spirit gives us the help we need to be like Jesus and to carry on his work.

We call this help:
 the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
Open the gift packets and look at the gifts.

Invite the children to give examples of the gifts in action. They may be able to think of people who use more than one gift.

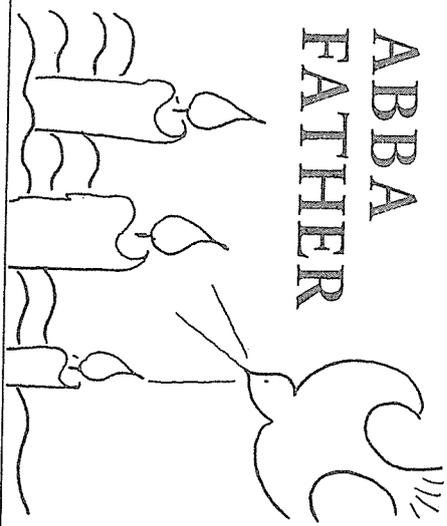
ACTIVITIES

On a cut-out shape the children write/draw what gift would help them to spread the wonderful news of God's love,
 or fill a shape with all the wonderful things they know about God

COMMUNITY LINK

Children rejoin the congregation bringing the cake with lighted candles, text: Come Holy Spirit, and the gifts from the packets. Invite everyone to come and share the 'birthday' cake after Mass.

ABBA FATHER



VISUAL AIDS

Gross made of card or wood.
Pictures of happy people.
Texts: Abba Father;
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (on cards).
Baptismal candle.
Children shaped cut-outs.

SHARING

Gather and welcome the children.
Today is a day to be happy.
We are happy because we are God's beloved children and can call God, our Father.
Each time we make the sign of the cross we remember that we are beloved children of God. *All make the sign of the cross. Place the cards on the*

cross, and light the baptismal candle.
In baptism we became God's children.
Today we celebrate the feast of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The feast of the Holy Trinity. We give praise and thanks to God by singing the *Gloria*.
Listen now to what St Matthew tells us Jesus asked his disciples to do.

WELCOME AND PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

Alle, alleluia,
You are our Father,
We your beloved,
Your family on earth.
Alle, alleluia.

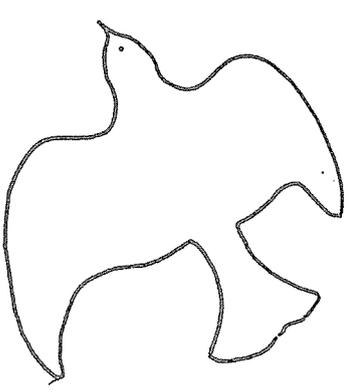
Tune: Abba, Abba Father

A reading from the Good News given to us by St Matthew.
Glory to you, Lord Jesus.

The eleven disciples went to the hill in Galilee where Jesus had arranged to meet them. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Go, to people everywhere and make them my disciples: baptise them in the

name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey the commands I gave you.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



DISCUSSION

Who set out for Galilee?
Why?
What did Jesus ask his disciples to do?
How many disciples are here today?
What happy news about God would you like to share?

ACTIVITIES

Gospel could be mimed and the children called by name and given individual tasks.
On the cut-out shapes the children write/draw something about God which makes them happy.

COMMUNITY LINK

Children rejoin the congregation, bringing the cross with the text: Abba Father, and the baptismal candle reminding us that we are baptised in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. As disciples we now must go out and spread the Good News.