

Buds

WITHIN

Blessings
in Rome

THE TRIVIA
GAME



Great is Thy Faithfulness!

WITHIN

KAIROS
Buds



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Blessings
in Rome



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EDITORIAL

FAITHFUL FRIENDS

Hello Little Buds!

Have you ever made a promise? Maybe you promised to clean your room, help a friend, or finish your homework. Keeping our promises - and doing what's right even when it's hard - is called faithfulness. And guess what? Faithfulness is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit! (Galatians 5:22-23)

This month, let's explore what it means to be faithful with the help of some amazing Bible friends.



Noah built a giant boat when God told him to - even though everyone else laughed at him. He didn't give up, and God saved his family and the animals because of his faithfulness.



When we listen to God and obey, we are being faithful - just like Noah!



Daniel prayed to God every day, even when a new rule said he couldn't. He was thrown into a den of hungry lions, but God kept him safe.



When we choose God over fear, we show faithfulness - like Daniel!



David was just a shepherd boy, but he was faithful in his small job. Because he trusted God, he was able to defeat the giant Goliath!



When we do even the little things with love and trust, God can do big things through us - like David!



Abraham waited many, many years for the son God had promised him. Even though he didn't know how it would happen, he trusted God the whole time.



Being faithful means waiting and believing, even when we don't see the answer right away - just like Abraham!

So, dear little Buds, when you're kind to a friend, when you pray every day, or when you obey your parents even when it's tough - you are growing the fruit of faithfulness in your heart!

Keep trusting God, stay true to your word, and remember: God is always faithful to you.

With love and prayers,

Nobin Jose

NOBIN JOSE, SINGAPORE

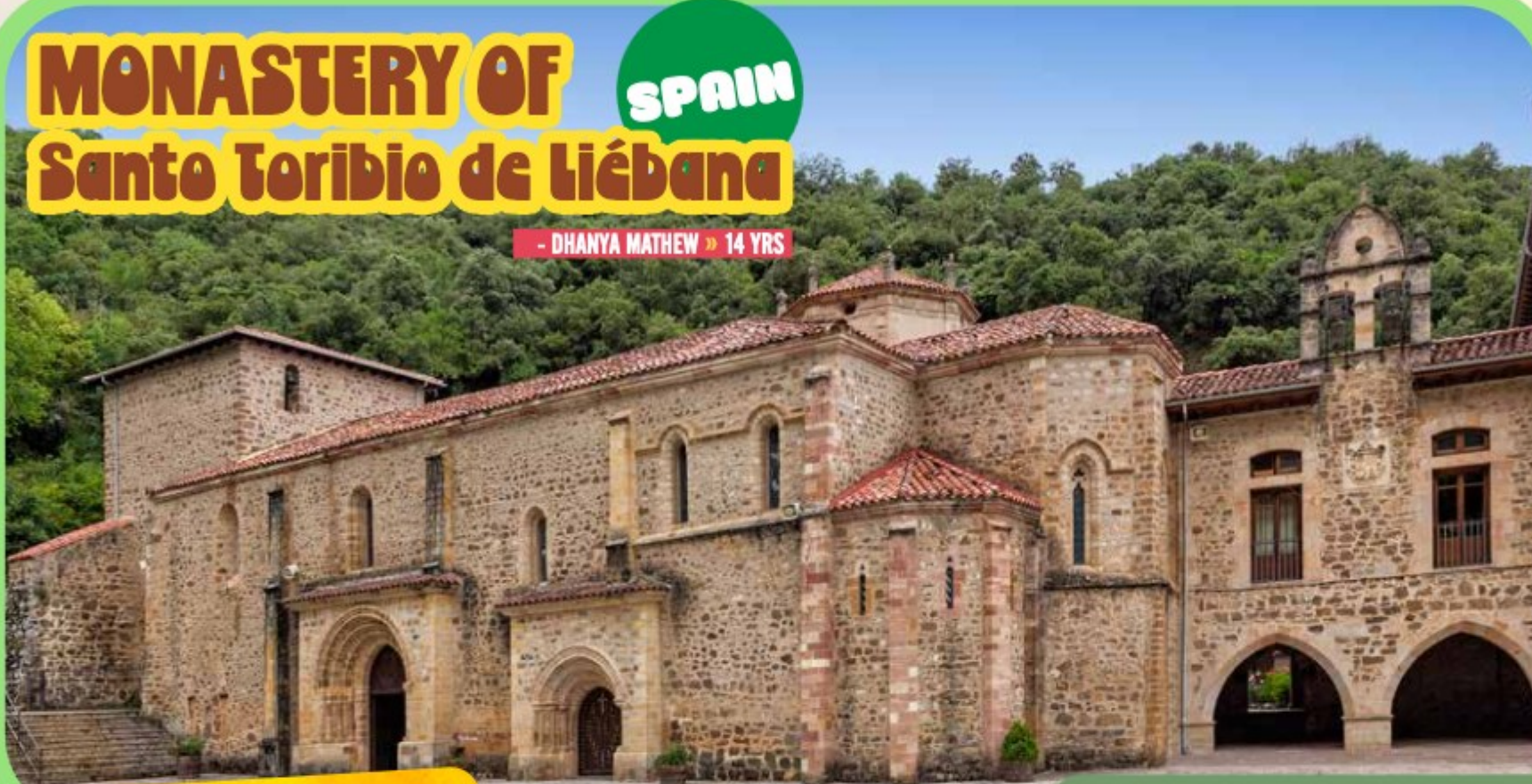
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MONASTERY OF SPAIN Santo Toribio de Liébana

- DHANYA MATHEW » 14 YRS



One really interesting thing is that Santo Toribio has something called a Holy Door. Only a few places in the world have one – like Rome and Jerusalem. This door only opens on a Jubilee Year, when 16 April (Saint Turibius' feast day) lands on a Sunday. In those years, thousands of people walked to the monastery to get a blessing and forgiveness for their sins. The area around the monastery is super quiet and beautiful, with big mountains and green valleys. It's really peaceful, and you get to see amazing views of the Picos de Europa mountains.

The Monastery of Santo Toribio de Liébana is a really old and special place in northern Spain. It's up in the mountains in a region called Cantabria, near a small town called Potes. This place is super important for Christians because it has a piece of what many people believe is the True Cross – the wooden cross on which Jesus was crucified.

The monastery is named after Saint Turibius of Astorga, who brought the piece of the cross from the Holy Land to Spain. He's actually buried there, and people started coming to visit his tomb a long time ago. It became a big place for pilgrims to visit, kind of like Santiago de Compostela. Even though the monastery first started in the 6th century, most of the buildings we see today were built in the 13th century in a style called Gothic. The main church has

SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE MONASTERY

- 1** It is claimed that the piece of the True Cross is the largest piece held.
- 2** The relic is of the 'left arm of the Holy Cross. It was sawed and assembled in the form of a cross, leaving intact the hole where was nailed down the hand of Christ.'

- 3** The Holy Door is named Puerta del Perdón (Door of Forgiveness).



big stone arches, high ceilings, and cool designs carved into the walls. There's also a special room called the Lignum Crucis Chapel, where the piece of the cross is kept inside a silver box.

So, overall, the Monastery of Santo Toribio de Liébana is an old and holy place with tons of history. People from all over the world visit to feel closer to God, see the True Cross, and enjoy the peaceful mountain nature.



THE LAST SUPPER (MARK 14:12-26)

On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb, Jesus was with his disciples.

Where do you want us to go and make preparations for you to eat the Passover?

Jesus sent two of his disciples with instructions.

Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. Say to the owner of the house he enters, 'The Teacher asks: Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.

The disciples left, went into the city and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. While they were reclining at the table eating, he said,

Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me – one who is eating with me.

They were saddened, and one by one they said to him.

Surely you don't mean me?

It is one of the Twelve, one who dips bread into the bowl with me. The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born.

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples.

Take it; this is my body.

Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it.

This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.

Truly I tell you, I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.

When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

STORY: SR. SUMA THOMAS CSM

ILLUSTRATIONS: SOOSANNA JAXON

FAITHFULNESS:

Your Secret Superpower!

- ANCY THOMPSON



The Bible says in 2 Thessalonians 3:3. The Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one.

Imagine you are part of God's Super Team, and your special power is... Faithfulness! But wait, what is faithfulness?

Faithfulness means being loyal, keeping promises, and doing the right thing even when it's tough. It's like having a best friend who never leaves, or a superhero who magically shows up every time you need them. Guess who's the most faithful one ever? God!



God always loves you, never forgets you, and keeps His promises. And He wants you to be faithful too.

Have you heard about Daniel's faithfulness?

Daniel loved God and talked to God every single day. Morning. Noon. Night. But some jealous men didn't like how important Daniel was. So, they tricked the king into making a rule: 'No praying to anyone but the king for 30 days or else you will be thrown to the lion's den.'

Did Daniel stop praying? Nope! He still opened his window, kneeled down and prayed faithfully like always. The jealous men saw him and told the king. So Daniel was thrown into the cave full of big, hungry lions! But Daniel wasn't afraid. He trusted God. That night, God sent an angel to shut the lion's mouth. The lions didn't even roar, they just sat there like big sleepy cats. The very next day, the king ran to the den, 'Daniel! Are you okay?'

Daniel smiled and said 'Yes! God kept me safe!'



You can be faithful too just like Daniel by:

- ✧ **Praying everyday**
- ✧ **Doing the right thing even when its hard**
- ✧ **Trusting God always**

When you are faithful, you are using your God-given super power (Faithfulness) and you become part of God's Super team!

ST ALOYSIUS GONZAGA

Part 1

Aloysius Gonzaga was the eldest of eight children born in northern Italy into a wealthy and reputable family. Being the first born son, he was set to inherit his father's title and status. His father wanted him to be a soldier as was the custom for sons of aristocracy. At age five, Gonzaga was sent to a military camp to get started on his training.



Aloysius grew up surrounded by violence. In 1576, when he was 8, he was sent to Florence along with his younger brother, Rodolfo, to serve at the court there and for further study. Aloysius fell ill with a kidney disease, which troubled him throughout his life. However, whilst he was ill, he took the opportunity to read about the saints and to spend much of his time in prayer.



Aloysius met St Charles Borromeo, and received First Communion on 22 July 1580 from him. After reading a book about Jesuit missionaries in India, Gonzaga had the desire to become a missionary. He started practising by teaching catechism classes to young boys. He also often visited the houses of the Capuchin friars and the Barnabites and adopted an ascetic lifestyle.



Aloysius really started contemplating joining a religious order. His mother agreed with his wishes, but his father was furious and prevented him from doing so. Many members of his family were also against it and worked hard to persuade him to change his mind. If he were to become a Jesuit, he would have to give up any right to his inheritance or status. His family's attempts to discourage him did not deter Aloysius, he still wanted to become a missionary.



STORY: STEFFI SIBY ILLUSTRATIONS: MADHU S

Q How should we show our love for God?

ANS: So happy to hear such a sincere question. We all are called to be in loving relationship with God (Matthew 22:37 & 1 John 4:16). Jesus asks us to remain in love with Him and the Father (John 15:9). The important thing we must know here is genuine relationship, and the manifestation of that love will automatically follow. But putting up performances to portray that we love God when we lack sincerity is fruitless.

Think about someone you love – like your parents, siblings or best friend. Since you love them, you'd like to spend time with them even if there are obstacles, talk to them, try to understand what they want, their likes and dislikes. One would be very careful not to hurt those they love and, to ensure this relationship stays strong, avoid doing

things the other doesn't like. You would speak good about them to others, careful not to bring any disgrace to their good name through your actions.

Similarly, if you love God, you would naturally spend



more time with Him in prayer – reading the Bible, attending Holy Mass and frequenting confession, spending time in Eucharistic adoration (or before Blessed Sacrament), personal prayer (talking / sharing to God as you would talk to your best friend or loved one), praying the Rosary and other prayers, making sacrifices for

should be courageous to say Yes or No accordingly. And it is not only about avoiding things, but also being pro-active in doing things like helping friends and others, forgiving others, being responsible in your duties and responsibilities (e.g. studying).

So basically, if you love God you would naturally stay away from

ONE WOULD BE VERY CAREFUL NOT TO HURT THOSE THEY LOVE AND, TO ENSURE THIS RELATIONSHIP STAYS STRONG, AVOID DOING THINGS THE OTHER DOESN'T LIKE. YOU WOULD SPEAK GOOD ABOUT THEM TO OTHERS, CAREFUL NOT TO BRING ANY DISGRACE TO THEIR GOOD NAME THROUGH YOUR ACTIONS.



love of God, abstinences and other devotional practices which would make your relationship stronger. You would try your best not to break any commandment, since it would offend God and create a distance in your relationship.

If you really love God, think about how Jesus would act or would like you to act in a situation – for e.g. obeying parents, walking away from fights, not cheating in exams, not using bad words, etc. You

sin and would do good. You would be prayerful and would give priority to Jesus above everything else. But we should know that it is not just being perfect in practices or actions, God is more interested in how sincere and genuine we are, even if we happen to fail. He values the way we try to keep His love and will help us in that.

A MISCELLANY OF NOT GIVING UP

- JOAN JERO DCRUZ » 16 YRS

Dear Diary,

Today was the big spelling bee. I studied so much - flashcards, word games, everything. I even skipped my TV time last night to go over the tough words with Mom.

But when I got on stage, my hands were super sweaty, and my heart was pounding like crazy. The first few rounds were okay, but then I got the word 'miscellaneous.' I panicked. I could hear people whispering. I messed up the 's' and they rang the bell.

I wanted to cry right there on stage.

Later, in the car, I just sat quietly and stared out the window. But Mom reached over and held my hand. She said, 'I know you're disappointed, but you were brave. You stood up there in front of everyone and tried your best. That takes real strength.'

Then she reminded me of the verse: I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength. She said sometimes, that strength shows up not when we win, but when we keep going even after we lose.

So yeah, I didn't win. But I did something I was scared of. And that counts for something.

Next year, I'll try again. I think that's what real strength looks like - not being perfect, but not giving up.

And maybe spelling 'miscellaneous' right next time.



Do you have a faith experience you'd like to share for this page? Send it to us at kairosbuds@jykhairmedia.org with your full name, age and complete postal address.

I can do all things through him who gives me strength.

- (Philippians 4:13)

I can do all things through him who gives me strength.

I can do all things through him who gives me strength.

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I can do all things through him who gives me strength.



St Teresa of Calcutta



The Trivia Game



START

FINISH

01 How many sacraments are there?
(MOVE 2 PLACES AHEAD)

02 What is the name of Martha and Mary's brother?
(MOVE 1 PLACES AHEAD)

03 How many Mysteries of the Rosary are there?
(MOVE 2 PLACES AHEAD)

04 LUCKY STEP
Move 3 PLACES AHEAD!

05 Who was Peter's brother?
(MOVE 1 PLACE AHEAD)

06 What is the name of our Pope?
(MOVE 2 PLACES AHEAD)

07 Who were the sons of Zebedee?
(MOVE 1 PLACE AHEAD)

08 Name the first book of the Bible?
(MOVE 1 PLACE AHEAD)

09 Name the place where Jesus was crucified.
(MOVE 2 PLACES AHEAD)

20 When is the birthday of the Church?
(MOVE 1 PLACE AHEAD)

19 Who was chosen by God to bear His only-begotten Son?
(MOVE 1 PLACE AHEAD)

18 During Mass, what do we do when the Gospel is read?
(MOVE 1 PLACE AHEAD)

17 Who founded the Catholic Church?
(MOVE 3 PLACES AHEAD)

16 What is the season Catholics prepare for Jesus' resurrection?
(MOVE 1 PLACE AHEAD)

15 During Adoration, the Blessed Sacrament is kept inside this.
(MOVE 3 PLACES AHEAD)

14 Who climbed a tree to see Jesus?
(MOVE 2 PLACES AHEAD)

13 Jesus used short stories to teach people. What are they called?
(MOVE 1 PLACE AHEAD)

12 Which city is home to the Vatican?
(MOVE 2 PLACES AHEAD)

11 Which saint preached to fish?
(MOVE 3 PLACES AHEAD)

10 Which sacrament commemorates the Last Supper?
(MOVE 5 PLACES AHEAD)



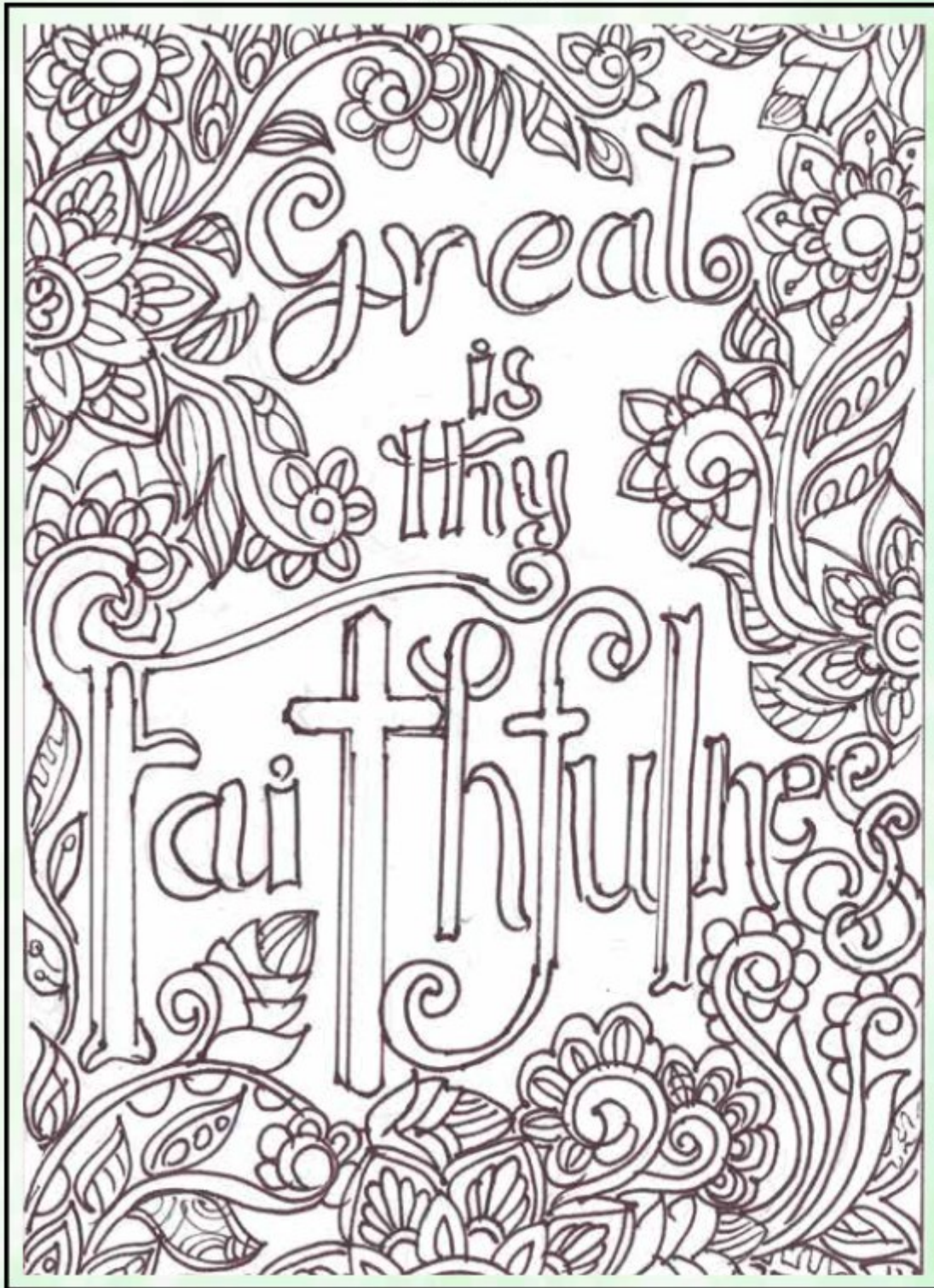
(You will need dice and tokens. Roll 6 to start. Correct answer moves forward respectively. Wrong answers lose turn. Whoever finishes the game first wins.)



'Learn and Colour'

Great is his faithfulness

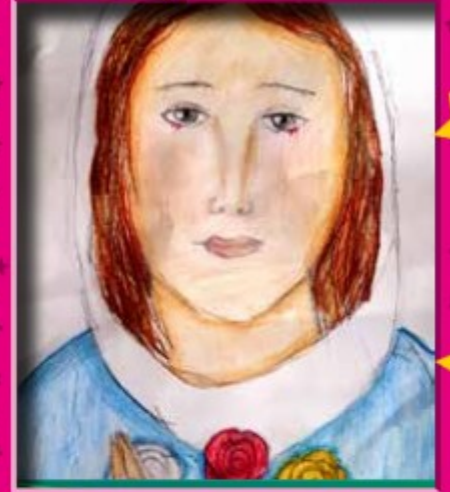
Lamentations 3:23



LITTLE MASTERS

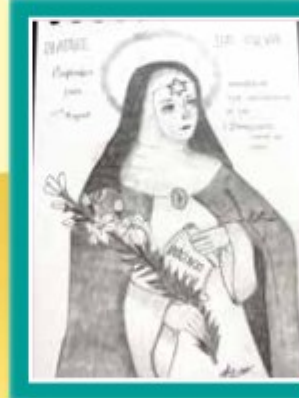


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» Adelaide Australia



Hanna Jino » 12 YRS
» Dunedin, New Zealand

Maria Immaculata » 12 YRS
» Hosur, India



Clare Ben » 6 YRS
» Adelaide, Australia



Jiya Thomas » 11 YRS
» Palakkad, India



Aaron Anto Thekkan » 10 YRS
» Bangalore, India



Rachel K Anoop » 7 YRS
» Canada



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Please include full name, age, place/country.

JESUS LOVES ME WATCH

- ROSE MARY TOM



MATERIALS REQUIRED

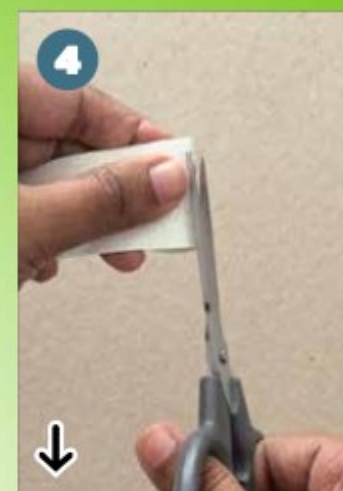
- 1 Long piece of craft paper
- 1 Square piece of craft paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Pen/Pencil/Sketch pen

STEPS

Step 1: Draw a circle on the square piece of paper and cut it out.

Step 2: Draw a heart in the centre of the circle, mark the time and write 'Jesus loves me all the time' as shown in the picture. The dial is ready now.

Step 3: Round both the edges of the long piece of paper and make two thin slits on one end.



Step 4: On the other side, cut the end out thin with round edges as shown. This is your strap.

Step 5: Adjust the slits accordingly for the thinner end of strap to go through it, as shown in the picture.

Step 6: Once the strap of the watch is ready, paste the dial (circle) on the centre of the strap. Your watch is ready now.



Blessings in Rome

- ANNA-CLAIRE ANTHRAPER » 15 YRS

On a boiling, sunny day in Rome, I was one of 250,000 people crammed into St Peter's Square at the Vatican, to attend the funeral of the late Pope Francis. You see, for that very weekend, my family and I had been planning, praying, and hoping for a long time to go and attend the Canonisation of Blessed Carlo Acutis. Yet, just a day before we took the plane to Italy, our holy father, Pope Francis passed away. It came as a shock to all of us. We had known, of course, that the Pope was very sick, yet had never truly imagined this turn of events. As it happened, it was too late to cancel tickets and so we set out for Italy, not for a joyful jubilee, but the funeral of the Church's leader and a great patron of peace, surrendering ourselves to the will of the Father.



Before we reached Rome for the funeral, we spent time in Venice, Padua, and Assisi. At all three destinations we were able to see relics of saints, and magnificent churches. In fact, in Venice, there was

a church around every corner, and pictures and statues of the Virgin Mary everywhere else. While we were there, we got to see the incorrupt body of Saint Lucy, and her massive basilica. The next day in Padua, we visited Saint Anthony and attended Mass there. Soon after, in the night, pouring with rain, shadows dancing on the wet pavement, we arrived in Assisi. As soon as we reached, I felt a peace, as if I had returned home after years away.



In Assisi was the body of the soon-to-be saint whom we had come to see, Bl Carlo Acutis. Assisi was busy. To coincide with the canonisation was the Jubilee of Teens, and since the canonisation was postponed, many came to see Carlo's body. Wherever we went, teenagers from all over the world flocked, in honour of one their own who had passed onto heaven, inspiring many to strive to do the same. When I saw his body I felt an overwhelming sense of peace. Here was a boy, I and so many others owed so much to, a boy no different in lifestyle to me. Yet, the way he lived the life given to him is truly extraordinary.

You must understand, Carlo's body is not incorrupt. The body was exhumed some time after his death and covered in silicone and wax. In fact, before his beatification Mass, the Bishop Dominico Sorrentino, the bishop of Assisi stated: 'He[Carlo] lived as an ordinary boy, and he died as an ordinary boy.' However, it is obvious, from reading Carlo's life story that he was truly in sync with God, as the bishop goes on to say: 'But with the extraordinary gift of a love for the Eucharist, and for the Church, his love was a love that carried him beyond, even into eternity.' Carlo's body is in the church of St Maria Maggiore in Assisi, where he is laid in a glass chamber, wearing jeans and Nike shoes. Seeing him, finally, after all this time was truly worth it. We were closer to him than ever imagined, and could feel the presence of God in the air. There is no way that, during the canonisation we would've been able to get anywhere close to his body, but, now in his favourite village we sat, less than two feet away from the young saint-to-be.

After two days in Assisi, we were off to Rome, which was a completely different experience. We met up with a few friends in the city and set out for the funeral of Pope Francis, after which we visited the ruins of the Roman Forum. We were blessed to visit the church of St Joachim and Anna for daily Mass, and we also saw the churches of St Philip Neri, the Lateran Basilica, the Vatican Museum, and of course, the heart of all Catholicism – St Peter's Basilica. Being

inside the Basilica was truly magnificent. We were around so many popes and saints, the favourite being Pope St John Paul II.





At the time, it almost seemed like a hellhole, crowded and stifling, but, looking back now, I can see the blessings we experienced during this pilgrimage.

During our days in Rome, my younger brother and I played a game. How many people belonging to the holy orders can you find? The point scheme went like this: 15 points for a Pope (so we didn't get any of that), 10 points for a cardinal, five points for a bishop, and one point for a priest. Deacons and seminarians got half-a-point each. While the game was a joke on the sheer number of clergy in Rome (I got 103 points), it had a deeper meaning we didn't realise till later. Every district had a church, and each church was massive, with elaborate paintings and statues. But, most surprising of all, was the amount of priests everywhere, wearing black and their collar, so different from priests in UK

who wear normal clothing. Priests saying Mass, priests in the airport, even priests at McDonalds. And no one batted an eyelash. It was so completely normal to have hundreds of clergy in Rome. And this is why it truly deserves the phrase, and feels like, 'the heart of the Catholic Church'.

While Assisi had been peaceful and relaxing, busy but quiet, Rome was every inch a bustling capital city, and far hotter. At the time, it almost seemed like a hellhole, crowded and stifling, but, looking back now, I can see the blessings we experienced during this pilgrimage. The very experience of being amongst so many others, who believed in what I did, was strengthening in a world where Christianity is trodden upon by others. The sheer size, grandeur, and splendour was a life changing experience for me. It's true, the journey was nothing like we had planned, but God took our trip and turned it into a pilgrimage that showered us with blessing after blessing, whether or not we realised it at the time.

KID CATHOPEDIA

MARIA TERES SEBASTIAN

Catholic Encyclopedia for kids!

Bethany

Hebrew: Beit Anya (בֵּית אַנְיָ)

MEANING: 'HOUSE OF AFFLICTION' OR 'HOUSE OF FIGS'

Bethany was a small village near Jerusalem, mentioned many times in the Bible. It was the home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, whom Jesus loved. Jesus often stayed there with this family; this is where He performed one of His greatest miracles – raising Lazarus from the dead (John 11).



Interesting Fact :

Bethany is where Jesus ascended into heaven!

Before He returned to the Father, He blessed His disciples on the Mount of Olives, which is near Bethany. (Luke 24:50-51)

Personal Application :

Bethany was a place where Jesus found friendship and rest. Just like Mary, Martha, and Lazarus welcomed Him into their home, we should welcome Jesus into our hearts and daily lives.

Who Am I?

→ I had two sisters, and Jesus brought me back to life.
Who am I?

→ Jesus told me I was worried about many things, but my sister chose what was better.
Who am I?

→ I sat at Jesus' feet, listening to His words.
Who am I?

Football Team with No Name?!



One Saturday, Kevin and Mathias Kato were at the football pitch in the park, playing with their friends. For the past two months, Kevin had been helping coach his friends. Now the group met every Saturday evening for a game. After an intense match, the group sat down on the grass to relax. 'Guys,' Kevin said. 'I heard that St George's High School is going to start a football memorial match in honour of Coach Ramsey, who recently passed away.' 'How do you know that, Kev?' Eddie asked. 'Dad was talking about it,' replied Kevin. 'Dad knew Coach Ramsey, said he was a great coach and was much-loved by his football team.' 'So he worked at St George's?' Mathias asked.



'Yes Matty. Coach Ramsey worked there for over 25 years. He recently passed away of old age.' Kevin answered. 'So the memorial match -?' Sean asked. 'Yeah, Sean. It's open to all football teams - what do you guys think of participating?' Kevin asked.

His friends all stared at him for a moment before breaking out into various expressions of surprise and astonishment.

'Guys! Calm down!' Kevin said.

Eddie was first to speak after everyone quietened. 'What do you mean we compete, Kevin? We just started practising only a couple of months back. And those who come for the match will definitely be better than us!'

'Yeah, Kev! And we aren't even a proper team! We don't even have a name!' Timmy shouted.



'Guys, the match is open to all teams - from schools, clubs, even teams like ours.' Kevin spoke, trying to rally them around. 'Yes, we don't have a name and we've just started out as a team. But we can still give it a shot, can't we?'

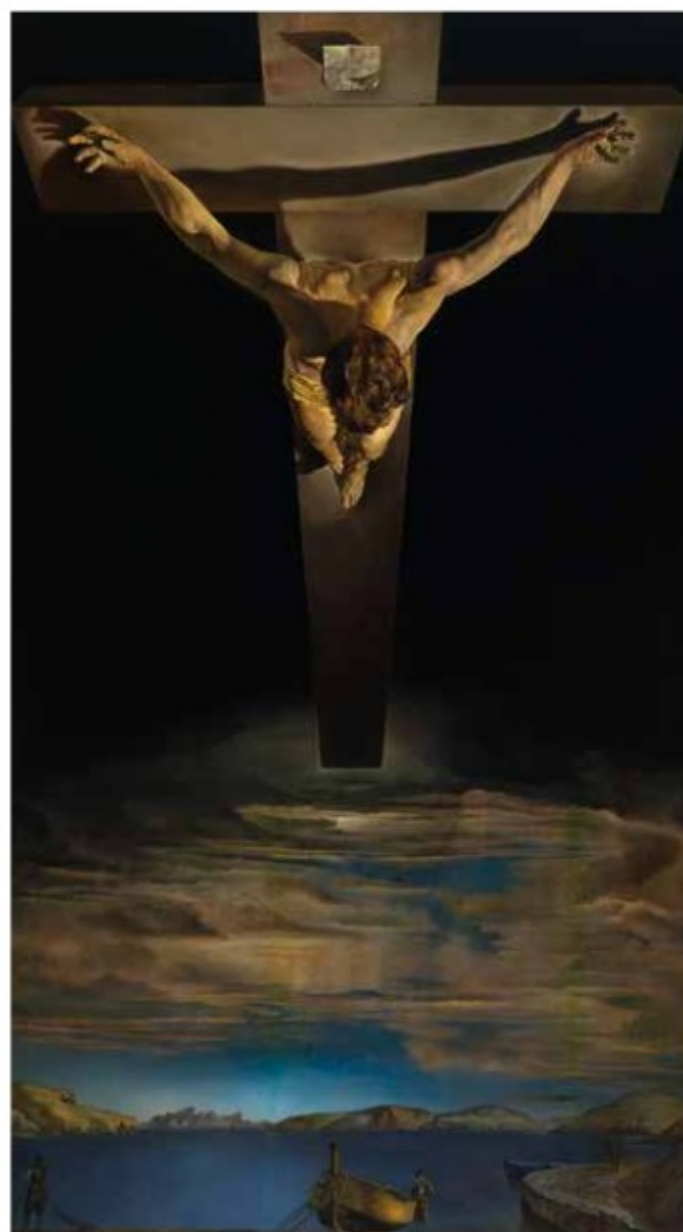
The team - all of them his dear friends now - looked at each other quizzically. Kevin asked them again, 'So guys, in the words of Aragon, "What say you?"'

To be continued...



Christ of Saint John of the Cross

- DR GINTO POTTACKAL



Do you know where much of the inspiration for masterpieces by renowned artists has come from? Our Catholic Church! Yes, these masters of art found their inspiration from the Bible, the lives of the saints, and the teachings of the Church.

Salvador Dalí, a Spanish artist, was no exception. His classic work, Christ of Saint John of the Cross was inspired from the drawing of St John of the Cross. The painting portrays Christ on the cross from an overhead perspective, floating above a lake with a boat and fishermen below.

Dalí explained how he had received his inspiration: 'The drawing of St John so impressed me the first time I saw it. In a dream, I saw Christ in the same position, but in the landscape of Port

Lligat, and I heard voices which told me, "Dalí, you must paint this Christ." The next day I started the painting.'

The painting is currently displayed at the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum in Glasgow, Scotland.

Salvador Dalí was well-known for his imaginative paintings. Born in Catalonia, Spain, in 1904, he displayed artistic talent from a young age. As an artist, he engaged in film, sculpture, and photography, and became a multitasking master in the world of art. His unique style is often referred to as surrealist painting. This style is a blend of dreams and reality. His artwork invites people to enter an imaginative universe, allowing them to explore visual elements in the painting from a different perspective. Salvador Dalí passed away in 1989, but his fascinating art continues to captivate people all over the world. In this oil painting, Dalí presents Christ without the signs of his suffering such as nail marks, blood, or a crown of thorns, which makes Him look calm and peaceful. This pictorialisation leads our hearts to reflect

upon Jesus's resurrection and His victory over sin and death. The composition of the painting is arranged as a view from the above, which gives an impression of how God was seeing the sacrifice of His beloved son.

The depiction of Christ's body and the cross forms the downward-pointing triangle which evokes reflection on the Holy Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Upon closer examination, we can find that the edges of the triangle align with Jesus's wounds, and the triangle itself is superimposed within a circle. At the bottom of the cross, we see calm water, a boat and fishermen in a surrealistic style. The bright light around Jesus stands out against the dark sky, symbolising the power of Jesus over darkness. Through this painting, Dalí invites us to think about how Jesus' love can bring light to even the darkest times.

Finally a few words about Saint John of the Cross: He lived during the 16th century in Spain, and was well known for his profound spiritual reflections and poetic writings. Venerated as a mystic in the Church, he wrote many prose and poems on the theme, Divine Love. In addition, he often sketched his spiritual experiences in a unique way. His poem, Dark Night of the Soul is considered as a spiritual classic, inspiring many people to trust in divine love

during the challenges in life. St John of the Cross, along with St Teresa of Avila, played a crucial role in the reform of the Carmelite Order, advocating for a return to contemplative spirituality and simplicity.



Original Drawing by St John of the Cross

UNLIKELY DEBATERS

Mabel's fingers are itching for her phone in the crowd.

In Mabel's class, the teacher is getting the children into teams for the upcoming debate.

You'll be paired up. Let's mix it up this time! Mabel, you'll work with Sean.

Wait, isn't it supposed to be John, instead of me.

Tough luck, buddy.

Still, he decides to make the best of it. But he senses some hesitation from Mabel.

Hey Mabel. We'll figure this out together, yeah?

At lunch, Mabel is lost in her own world.

She thinks about her old comfort zone: silence, screens, and safety.

It's her first day back after two years of home-schooling...

Sean was least expecting to be put in the debate.

But Sean interrupts her thoughts.

Are you always this dramatic at lunch or is it my company?!

You ever tried one of these clubs?

I don't talk much.

Good place to practise not-talking. Their after-meeting snacks are the BEST!

An activity is in session: Each holder of the ball should give a fun fact about themselves.

I... draw comics in my diary.

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you.

He is determined to help Mabel out.

I would like to invite you to an extremely delicious chance of free snacks! THIS is an OFFER YOU CAN'T REFUSE!

Sean has brought Mabel to the Speak-Up Club.

Days later. Mabel's stage is set – if she dares to speak.

What?! We're up against Stefy and Ben?

It's Stefy and Ben!

To be continued.

STORY: ANEESH SUNNY THOMAS ILLUSTRATIONS: SANISH DIVAKARAN

LET'S PLAY 'I SPY'!

THIS VERSION OF I SPY COMES WITH A TWIST. YOU HAVE TO FIND THE WORDS FROM THE BIBLE. SINCE OUR THEME IS ON 'FAITHFULNESS,' SO WILL THE BIBLE VERSES.



1 I spy with my little eye, something beginning with the letter C

10 empty boxes for letter C

(Clue: Lamentations 3:22-23)

2 I spy with my little eye, something beginning with the letter S

10 empty boxes for letter S

(Clue: 2 Thessalonians 3:3)

3 I spy with my little eye, something beginning with the letter H

6 empty boxes for letter H

(Clue: Proverbs 3:3)

4 I spy with my little eye, something beginning with the letter T

10 empty boxes for letter T

(Clue: Hebrews 10:23)

5 I spy with my little eye, something beginning with the letter M

6 empty boxes for letter M

(Clue: Deuteronomy 7:9)

6 I spy with my little eye, something beginning with the letter R

6 empty boxes for letter R

(Clue: Psalm 91:4)

7 I spy with my little eye, something beginning with the letter F

10 empty boxes for letter F

(Clue: 1 Corinthians 1:9)

8 I spy with my little eye, something beginning with the letter R

10 empty boxes for letter R

(Clue: Psalm 143:1)

9 I spy with my little eye, something beginning with the letter E

10 empty boxes for letter E

(Clue: 1 Chronicles 16:34)



Very Punny!

Q: WHAT HAPPENED WHEN MOSES HAD A HEADACHE?

› God gave him some tablets.



Q: NEED AN ARK TO SAVE TWO OF EVERY ANIMAL?

› I Noah guy.



Q: WHAT DO YOU CALL A DEACON, A PRIEST, AND A BISHOP ASKING FOR FOOD AT A RESTAURANT?

› Holy Orders!





ST CARLO AGUTIS

Pray for Us

***God, our Father, thank you for giving us Carlo,
a model for young people
and a message of love for all.***

***You made him love your son Jesus,
making the Eucharist
his 'highway to heaven.'***

***You gave him Mary
as a very beloved Mother,
and you made him, with her Rosary,
become a singer of her tenderness.***

She welcomes his intercession for us.

***He looks above all at the poor,
whom he loved and helped.***

***[Grant me also, through his intercession,
the grace I need...]***

***And make our joy full,
leading Carlo among the saints
of the Universal Church,
so that his smile continues
to shine for us and for the glory
of your name.***

Amen



**Pray an Our Father, a Hail
Mary, and a Glory Be.**

