

Buicks

WITHIN

Basilica of
Saint Mary
Star of the Sea

MY
MARIAN
EXPERIENCE



O Queen of Heaven!



WITHIN

KAIROS
Buds



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Saint Mary Star of the Sea
Florida, USA

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EDITORIAL

A Mother Who Rushes to Help

Dear Little Friends,
Wasn't that a beautiful picture of Mother Mary on the cover? I'm sure many of you smiled when you saw it - just like how we smile when we see someone we love. As Catholics, we have a very special place in our hearts for our Blessed Mother, Mary.

Let me tell you a little story from my life - something that made me feel how real and loving our Mother Mary is.

It happened in 2014, the year I got married. We were looking for a house, but nothing seemed right. We searched and searched, but every place we saw didn't feel like 'home.' One day, feeling very tired and a little sad, I went to the evening Holy Mass at St Anne's Church in Singapore. After Mass, I saw a statue of Our Lady of Lourdes in a quiet corner. I felt drawn to her, like a child going to their mum. I prayed one decade of the Rosary and simply asked, 'Dear Mother, please ask Jesus to bless us with a home near this church.'

Guess what happened next? The very next day, we found a new home listing online - and it was just across the street from St Anne's Church! We went to see the apartment, and from its windows, we could see the church shining beautifully. We knew in our hearts: 'Mother Mary helped us find this home.'

Because our new home was so close to the church, we could attend Holy Mass more often and spend quiet time with Jesus in the chapel. It was a gift that kept on giving - thanks to our loving Mother's prayer.

So my dear young readers, always remember: you have a heavenly Mother who loves you so much. When you are sad or need help, talk to her like you would to your own mum. She is listening, and she will always bring your prayers to Jesus.

I hope this special edition of *Kairos Buds* helps you feel Mother Mary's love in your heart. Say a 'Hail Mary' today - and know she's smiling right back at you.

With prayers and love,
Your Friend in Christ

Nobin Jose

Nobin Jose, Singapore

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The Basilica of Saint Mary Star of the Sea

- JOSEPH ASHER RENCE » 8 YRS

Florida, USA



The Basilica of St Mary Star of the Sea is a minor basilica in Key West, Florida, and one of the oldest Catholic parishes in the state. It is also the oldest parish in the Archdiocese of Miami. The title 'Our Lady, Star of the Sea' (*Stella Maris*) was given to Mary by St Jerome in the 4th century, symbolising her role as a guiding star leading people to Jesus, just as sailors navigate by the stars.



HISTORY

In 1851, Rev John F Kirby was sent by Bishop Francis Garland of the Diocese of Savannah to establish a parish in Key West. The church was dedicated on 26 February 1852. Bordered by the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico, it was placed under the patronage of Saint Mary Star of the Sea. The original church was destroyed by fire in 1901, and the current structure was built in 1905. On 11 February 2012, Pope Benedict XVI elevated it to a minor basilica.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES GROTTO



Near the basilica stands a grotto dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes and St Bernadette. It was designed by Sister Gabriel, who survived three major hurricanes after arriving in Key West in 1897. Witnessing their destruction, she built the grotto to seek Mary's protection. On the day of dedication in 1922, Sister Gabriel reportedly said, 'As long as the grotto stands, Key West will never experience the full brunt of a hurricane.' Remarkably, there has not been a severe storm on the island since the erection of the grotto in 1922. Today, the grotto is a centre of prayer before hurricanes, where Masses are celebrated, candles are lit, and news crews gather during storm threats.



The Basilica of St Mary Star of the Sea remains a beacon of faith and hope, reflecting the devotion of Key West's Catholic community.



Mother Mary

Our Loving Heavenly Mother

- SONIA SANTHOSH 10 YRS

Who is Mother Mary?

Have you ever heard Mary called 'Mother of God', 'Queen of Heaven' or 'Star of the Sea' and wondered if they were different people? I did too when I was little! I also noticed that Mary's statues look different – sometimes in a blue dress, sometimes in a sari, like in India. But guess what? She is the same Mary! She appears in different places, dressed in a way that helps people feel close to her. My favourite is Our Lady of Lourdes!



THE ANNUNCIATION: MARY'S YES TO GOD!

Imagine you're doing homework, and – BAM – an angel appears! That's what happened when Angel Gabriel visited Mary and said, 'You will have a Son, and you shall name Him Jesus.' Mary was surprised but trusted God and said, 'Let it be done to me according to your word.' (Mary's Fiat!)

Even when we don't understand everything, we should say YES to God, just like Mary!



How can YOU say
YES
to God today?

- ◆ Being kind to a friend or sibling
- ◆ Helping at home without being asked
- ◆ Praying even when you don't feel like it
- ◆ Waking up early to go to Holy Mass

OUR LADY OF LOURDES:

A Special Visit from Mary Did you know

Mary appeared to a 14-year-old girl named Bernadette in Lourdes, France?



One day in 1858, Bernadette was gathering firewood when she saw a beautiful lady dressed in white. The lady appeared many times and finally said, 'I am the Immaculate Conception.' Then, something amazing happened – a healing spring appeared! Many sick people were cured after drinking the water. Millions still visit Lourdes today to pray.

GUESS WHAT?

I visited Lourdes in 2022, and my mom was healed there! It made me feel even closer to Mary.

WHY DO I LOVE MOTHER MARY?

In my family, we pray the Rosary daily and celebrate her feast days. My dad once told me, 'When you hold Mary's hand, she holds Jesus' hand.' That means staying close to Mary helps us stay close to Jesus!

When she was lonely for 10 years, my sister prayed to Mother Mary to have a brother or a sister. **Guess what, she now has a brother and a sister (me).**



WANT TO GROW CLOSER TO MARY? TRY

- Praying a Hail Mary before bed
- Asking Mary for help when you're scared or sad
- Celebrating her feast days
- Learning about her apparitions
- Praying even one decade of the Rosary

What will YOU do today to grow closer to your Heavenly Mother? Let's hold Mary's hand – she will lead us straight to Jesus!

JESUS IS TESTED IN THE WILDERNESS (MATTHEW 4:1-11)

Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

After fasting forty days and forty nights, Jesus was hungry. The tempter came to him.

If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.

It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

Then the devil took Jesus to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple.

If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'

Jesus answered him.

It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Again, the devil took Jesus to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour.

All this I will give you, if you will bow down and worship me.

Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'

Then the devil left Jesus, and angels came and attended him.

STORY: SR. SUMA THOMAS CSM

ILLUSTRATIONS: SOOSANNA JAXON

My Marian Experience

- FR JOSEY KOLLAMPARAMPIL

SINCE CHILDHOOD, I've always felt a special bond with Mother Mary. My family's prayers and the teachings I received from the nuns and priests in church fostered this love. After high school, I joined the seminary to become a priest, but life led

me down a different path for a while. I worked in various jobs, from counselling to management, but the call to priesthood never left my heart. During retreats, spiritual counsellors often told me that Mother Mary was watching over me, and I began to sense her protection in my

life. In May of 2017, just before re-joining the seminary, I faced an immense loss – the sudden death of my mother. I was traveling overnight by bus from Bangalore to Kerala, India when I received the heartbreaking news. Overcome with grief, I could barely speak, but as I sat in silence, something extraordinary happened. A nun, who had not been sitting beside me

My family's prayers and the teachings I received from the nuns and priests in church fostered this love.

one who had sat beside me. I was stunned, and later, during a retreat, I learned from a spiritual counsellor that it was Mother Mary herself who had come to comfort me. Years later, I visited the site of Mary's apparition

in Guadalupe, Mexico. There, as I prayed, I felt her presence again. She whispered, 'I am with you, the priest of my Son.' This powerful experience reminds me that I am never truly alone.



John was welcomed to the diocese of New York at the age of 25 and he was ordained in June 1836. He celebrated his first Mass on Sunday, 26th June.

ST JOHN NEUMANN

Part 3

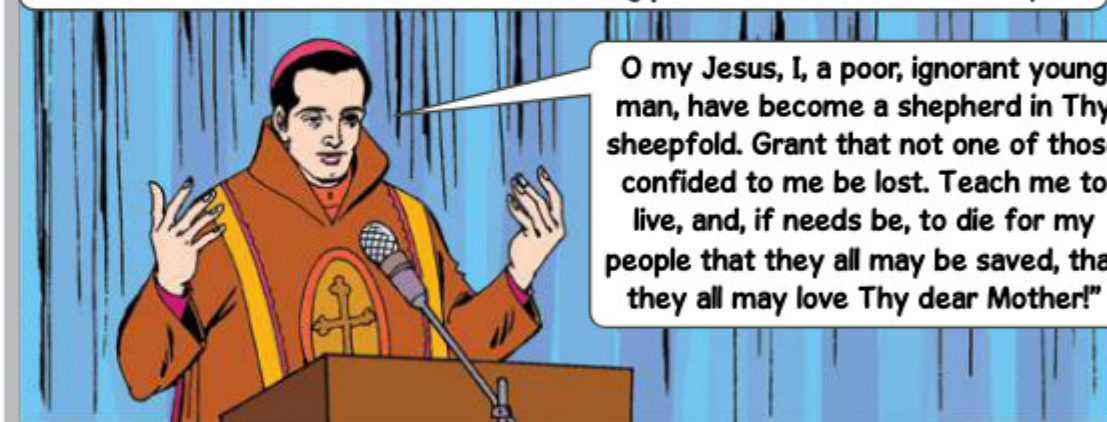
Oh Jesus, You poured out the fullness of your grace over me. You made me a priest and gave me the power to offer You up to God. Ah! God! This is too much for my soul! I will pray that You may give to me holiness, and to all the living and the dead, pardon, that someday we may all be together with You, our dearest God!

John worked as a missionary in New York until he was 29, when he joined the religious order of the Redemptorists and became its first member to profess vows in the United States. He continued with missionary work in Maryland, Virginia and Ohio. His expertise of eight languages enabled him to help people from all backgrounds.

Fr John had a particular love for children. He was the first to organise a Catholic diocesan school system and increased the number of pupils significantly. He believed that everyone had a right to education. In order to promote this, he ran scholarships and financial aid programmes so that all children had the opportunity to receive a Catholic education.



John was humble and he never wanted any position of authority. However, in 1852, at the age of 41, he was declared a bishop by Pope Pius IX. After this, because of his short stature, he was lovingly nicknamed, 'Our little bishop'.



O my Jesus, I, a poor, ignorant young man, have become a shepherd in Thy sheepfold. Grant that not one of those confided to me be lost. Teach me to live, and, if needs be, to die for my people that they all may be saved, that they all may love Thy dear Mother!"

Bishop John founded a new religious community and also established the Forty Hours Devotion as he had a fervent devotion to the Eucharist. However, he soon developed a troublesome cough. He suddenly collapsed walking down the street and died on 5th January 1860. To commemorate his remarkable life, St John Neumann was canonised by Pope Paul VI on 19 June 1977. He was the first American bishop to be beatified and canonised.



STORY: STEFFI SIBY ILLUSTRATIONS: MADHU S

A Conundrum

- JOAN JERO DCRUZ - 16 YRS

Dear Diary,

This week has been really hard. A new boy, Samuel, joined our school last week. He's alright I guess, he doesn't talk much. But he's really good at everything. Too good.

You know how I always win the calligraphy prize? Well, this time, I didn't. Samuel did. When the teacher announced his name, I felt my stomach twist. I clapped like everyone else, but inside, I was angry. That prize was supposed to be mine. I had practised so much!

I've been trying not to be mean to him, but every time I see him, I feel annoyed. It's not fair. Everyone is saying how amazing his handwriting is, and now it's like they forgot I was the best before he came.

Today, I tried to pray about it. I opened my Bible, and the first verse I saw was 1 Corinthians 13:4: *Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.* I read it over and over, but it didn't make me feel any better. I know I shouldn't be jealous, but I don't know how to stop feeling this way.

What should I do?



To be continued

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.

VERSE-IVE WRITING

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

(1 Corinthians 13:4).

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

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Saint Joseph

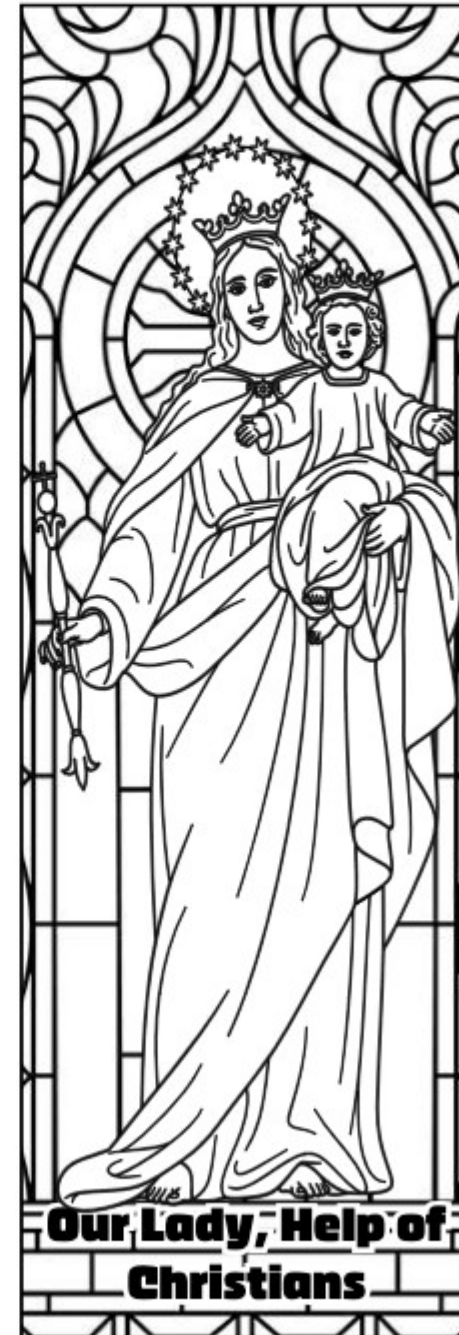


**Mirror
of Patience**



Mother Mary Bookmarks

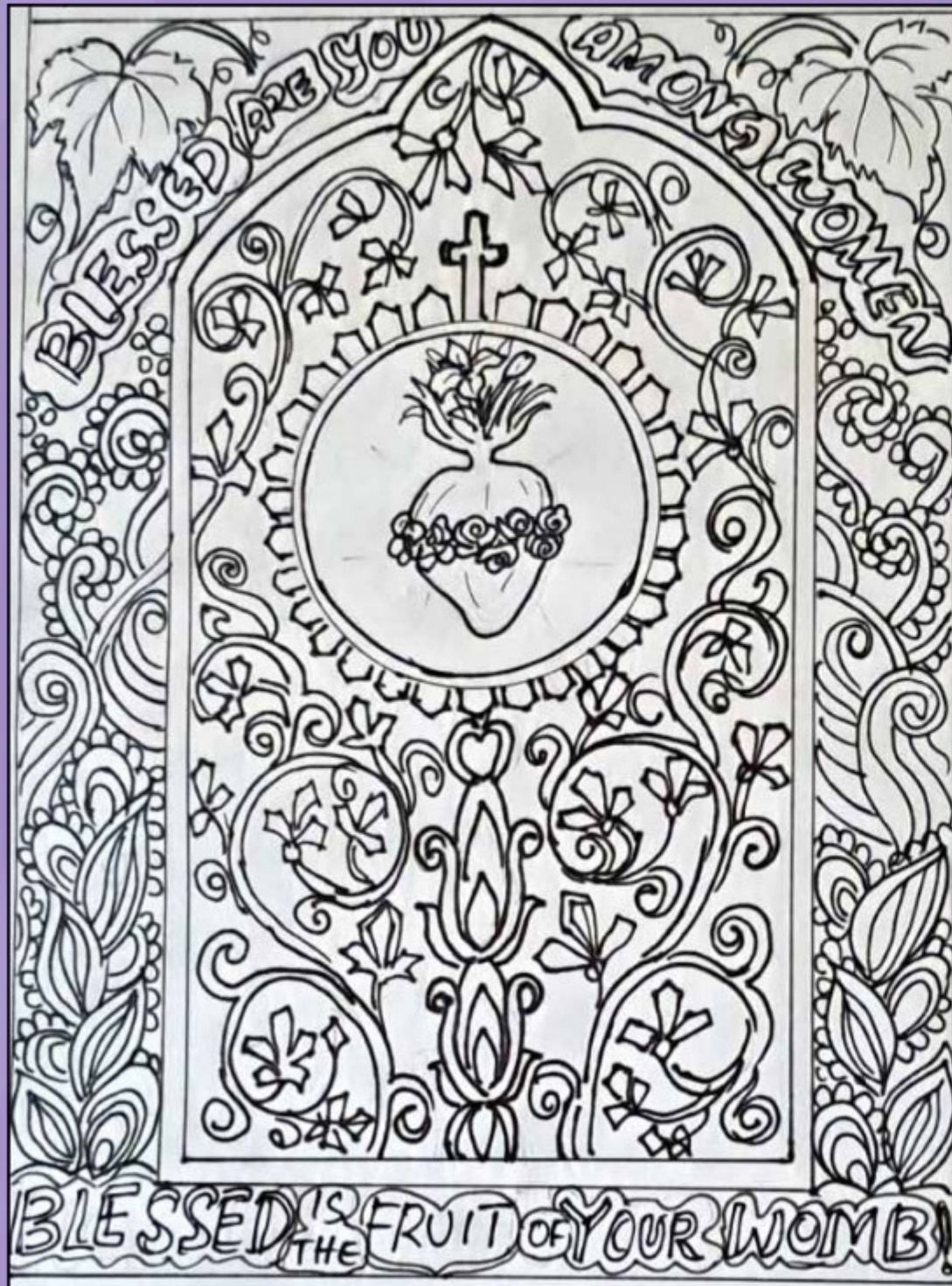
Simply colour and cut out.



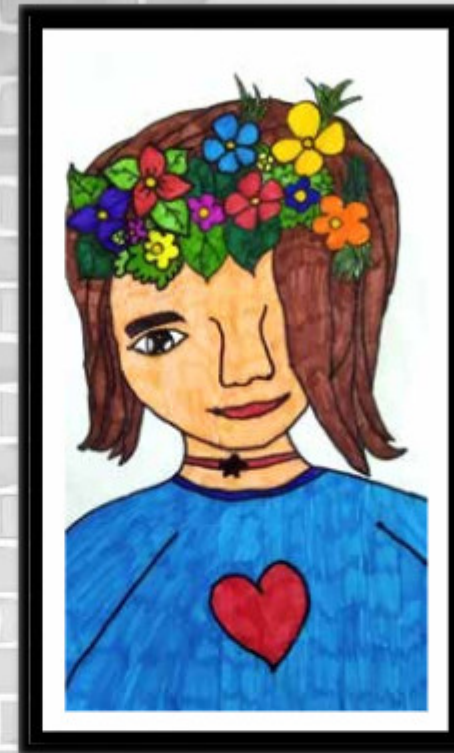
'Learn and Colour'

Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb!

Luke 1:42



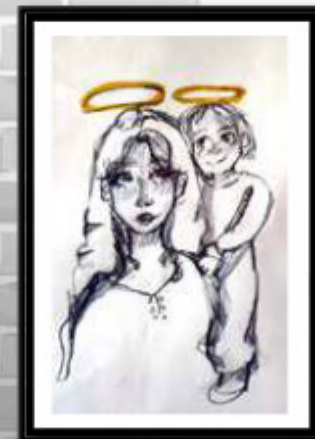
NEETHA JOVIN » 9 YRS
» KANJIRAPALLY, INDIA



MARIA IMMACULATE » 12 YRS
» HOSUR, INDIA



SOPHIE NICHOLSON » 10 YRS
» TOMBALL, USA



ABRAHAM SKARIA » 10 YRS
» TEXAS, USA



STEVE GEORGE SANOJ » 8 YRS
» ERNAKULAM, INDIA



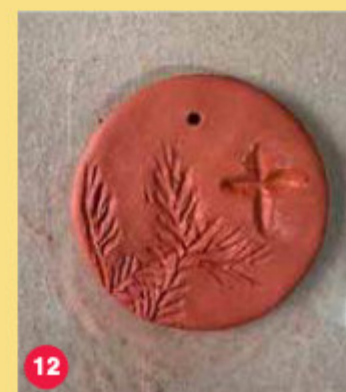
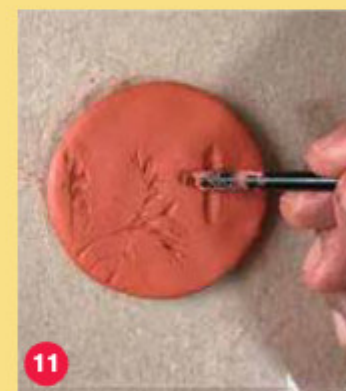
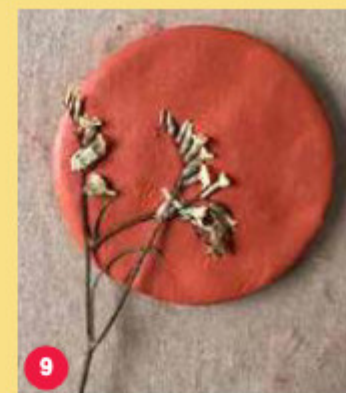
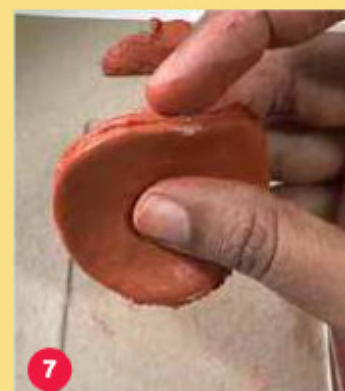
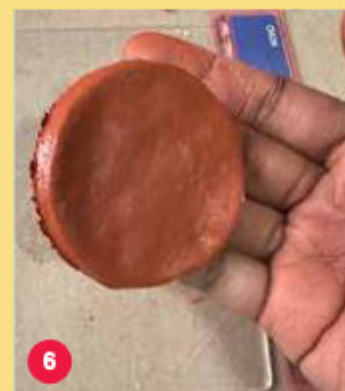
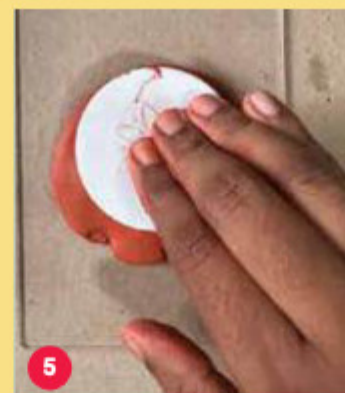
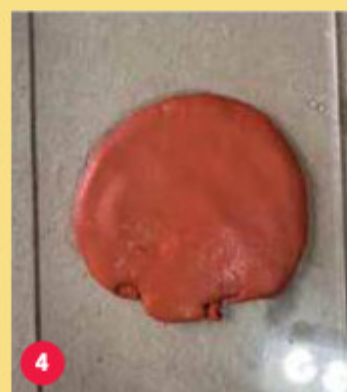
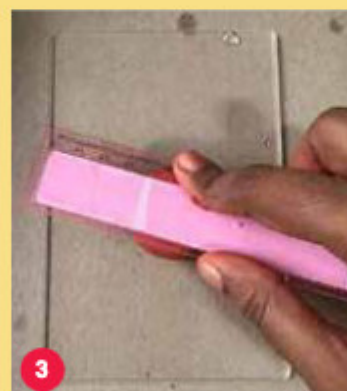
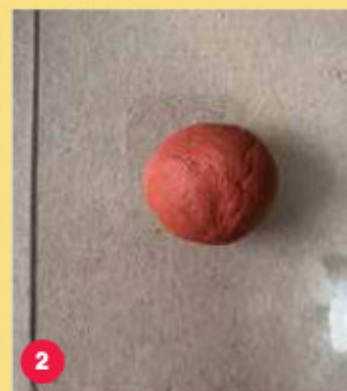
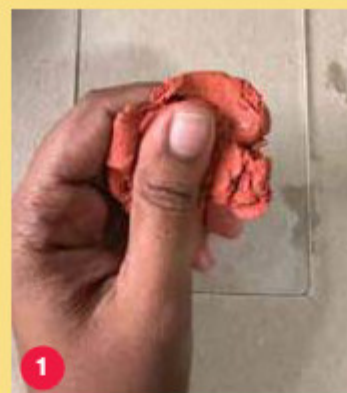
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Please include full name,
age, place/country.



JIYA THOMAS » 11 YRS
» PALAKKAD, INDIA

FAITH CLAY CHARM

- ROSE MARY TOM



PROCEDURE

Step 1: Take a small piece of clay (the size of a gooseberry).

Step 2: Knead the clay soft with your fingers. Dab it with water if it's too hard and make a ball. Place on a smooth surface.

Step 3: Use a ruler or flat card to press the clay and make it flat all around (approx. 2 mm thickness).

Step 4: Use a cookie cutter or round cap to cut the clay. Poke a hole on top.

Step 5: Carefully lift the clay and smooth the edges using water.

Step 6: Take a small leaf or tiny flowers and imprint them upon the clay.

Step 7: Using the tip of a painting brush, gently draw a cross beside the imprint, as shown. You may use the paint brush to define the leaf imprints as well.

Step 8: Keep the clay charm to dry (do not sun dry). It may take 2 or more days depending on the weather.

Step 9: Once the charm is dried, attach it to a key chain.

TIPS & THINGS TO NOTE

- Always cover unused clay to stop it from drying out.
- Dried clay can be rehydrated with water and kneading.
- Once the charm is dried, paint as you like. For water resistance you may apply a clay varnish or 'mod podge' using a brush and let it dry.
- Try not to flatten the clay too thin; it can break easily once dry.
- Let the clay dry completely before using sandpaper to smoothen, or paint.

MATERIALS REQUIRED

- Air-dry clay
- Water
- Circular cookie cutter/round lid
- Ruler/any flat card
- Small leaves or flowers

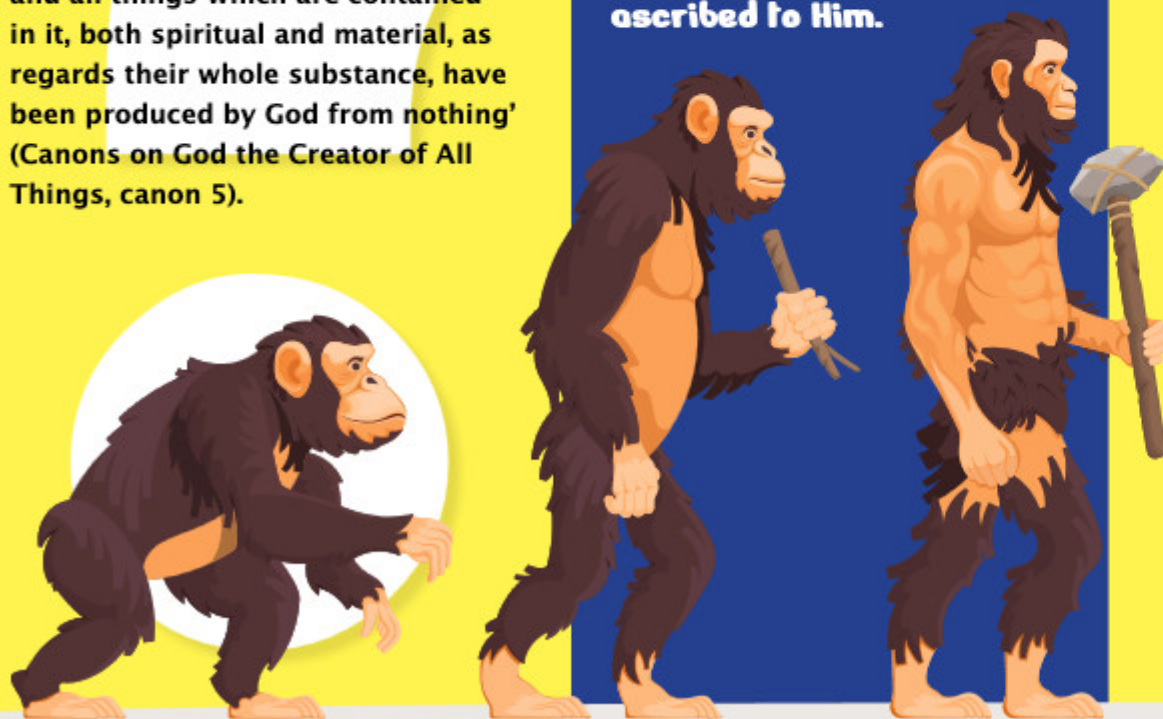


- Paint brush
- Acrylic paint
- Key chain/charm

Q Can Catholic Faith and the Theory of Evolution Go Together?

ANS: It is very difficult to give a clear-cut answer regarding this as it requires a broader discussion. Simply put, there are certain things that the Church does agree with regarding evolution. Concerning cosmological evolution, the Church has infallibly defined that the universe was specially created out of nothing. Vatican I, solemnly defined that everyone must 'confess the world and all things which are contained in it, both spiritual and material, as regards their whole substance, have been produced by God from nothing' (Canons on God the Creator of All Things, canon 5).

Concerning biological evolution, the Church does not have an official position on whether various life forms developed over the course of time. However, it says that, if they did develop, then they did so under the impetus and guidance of God, and their ultimate creation must be ascribed to Him.



Concerning human evolution, the Church has a more definite teaching. It allows for the possibility that man's body developed from previous biological forms, under God's guidance, but it insists on the special creation of His soul. Pope Pius XII declared that 'the teaching authority of the Church does not forbid that, in conformity with the present state of human sciences and sacred theology, research and discussions . . . take place with regard to the doctrine of evolution, in as far as it inquires into the origin of the human body as coming from pre-existent and living matter—[but] the Catholic faith obliges us to hold that souls are

immediately created by God' (Pius XII, Humani Generis 36). So, whether the human body was specially created or developed, we are required to hold as a matter of Catholic faith that the human soul is specially created; it did not evolve, and it is not inherited from our parents, as our bodies are.

While the Church permits belief in either special creation or developmental creation on certain questions, it in no circumstances permits belief in atheistic evolution.

Regarding time, much less has been defined as to when the universe, life, and man appeared. The Church has infallibly determined that the

universe is of finite age – that it has not existed from all eternity – but it has not infallibly defined whether the world was created only a few thousand years ago or whether it was created several billion years ago. One thing that is defined is that Genesis records God's work – things God really did. It is impossible to dismiss the events of Genesis as a mere legend. They are accounts of real history, even if they are told in a different (even poetic) style not commonly used.

To be continued.



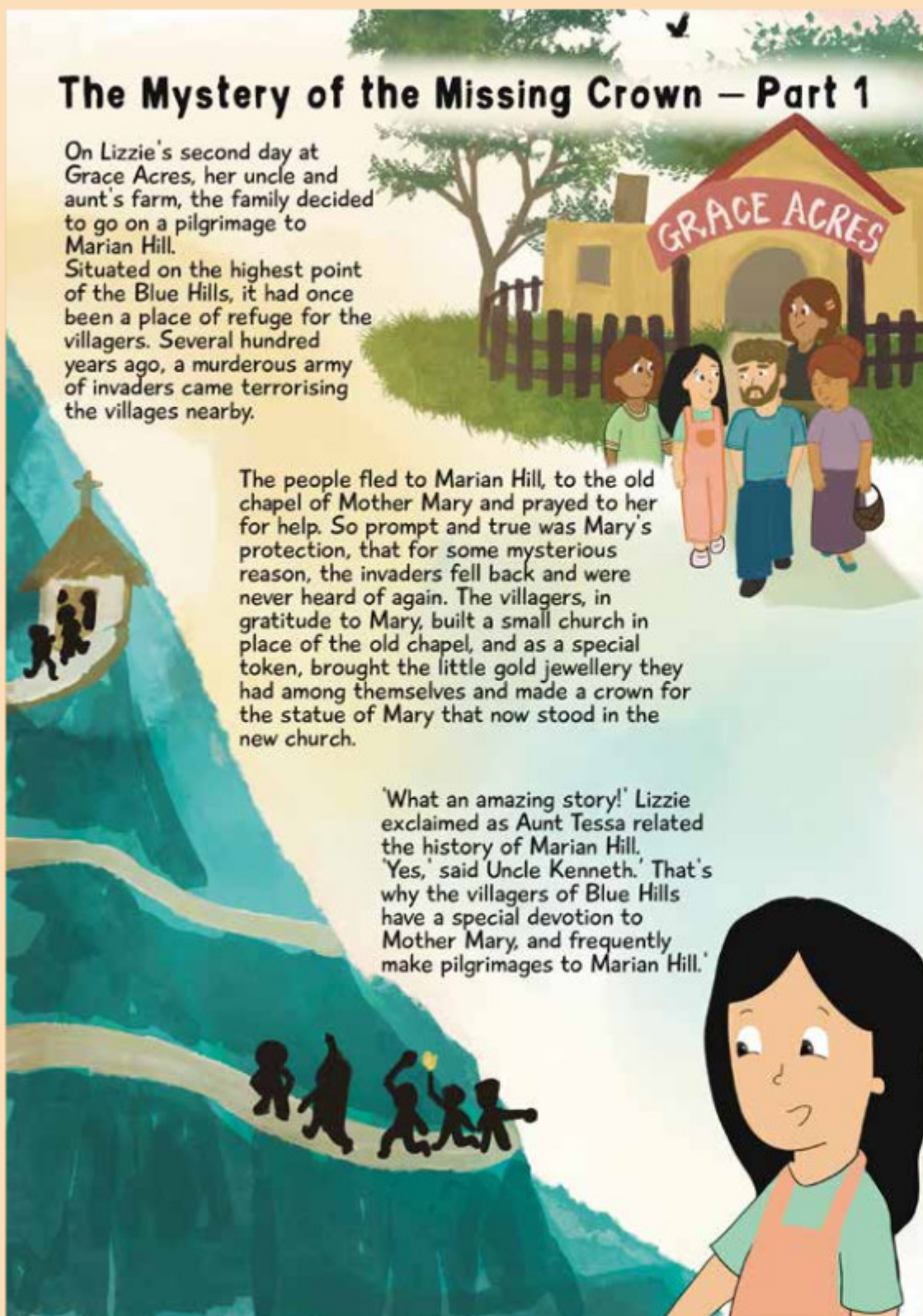
The Mystery of the Missing Crown – Part 1

On Lizzie's second day at Grace Acres, her uncle and aunt's farm, the family decided to go on a pilgrimage to Marian Hill.

Situated on the highest point of the Blue Hills, it had once been a place of refuge for the villagers. Several hundred years ago, a murderous army of invaders came terrorising the villages nearby.

The people fled to Marian Hill, to the old chapel of Mother Mary and prayed to her for help. So prompt and true was Mary's protection, that for some mysterious reason, the invaders fell back and were never heard of again. The villagers, in gratitude to Mary, built a small church in place of the old chapel, and as a special token, brought the little gold jewellery they had among themselves and made a crown for the statue of Mary that now stood in the new church.

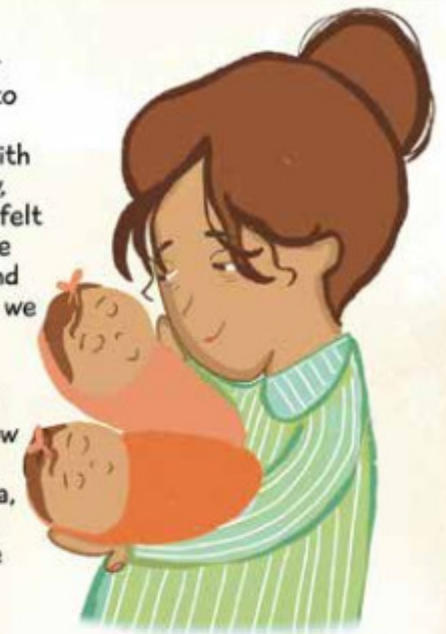
'What an amazing story!' Lizzie exclaimed as Aunt Tessa related the history of Marian Hill. 'Yes,' said Uncle Kenneth. 'That's why the villagers of Blue Hills have a special devotion to Mother Mary, and frequently make pilgrimages to Marian Hill.'



'I remember Mom telling us how it was Mother Mary who helped Aunt Tessa safely give birth to Mia and Marie,' said Lizzie.

'Yes, Lizzie dear. It was a difficult pregnancy with the twins, and when the time came for delivery, more complications arose. But through it all, I felt as though Mother Mary was by my side. We are forever grateful to her. Which is why, we try and make the pilgrimage to Marian Hill as often as we can,' Aunt Tessa added.

Pilgrims coming to Marian Hill have to walk the last leg of the journey, nearly a mile, up a narrow path to reach Marian Hill church. So after parking the car, Uncle Kenneth, Aunt Tessa, Mia, Marie and Lizzie began the trek up. It wasn't a steep incline, and the huge trees on either side made the walk pleasant.

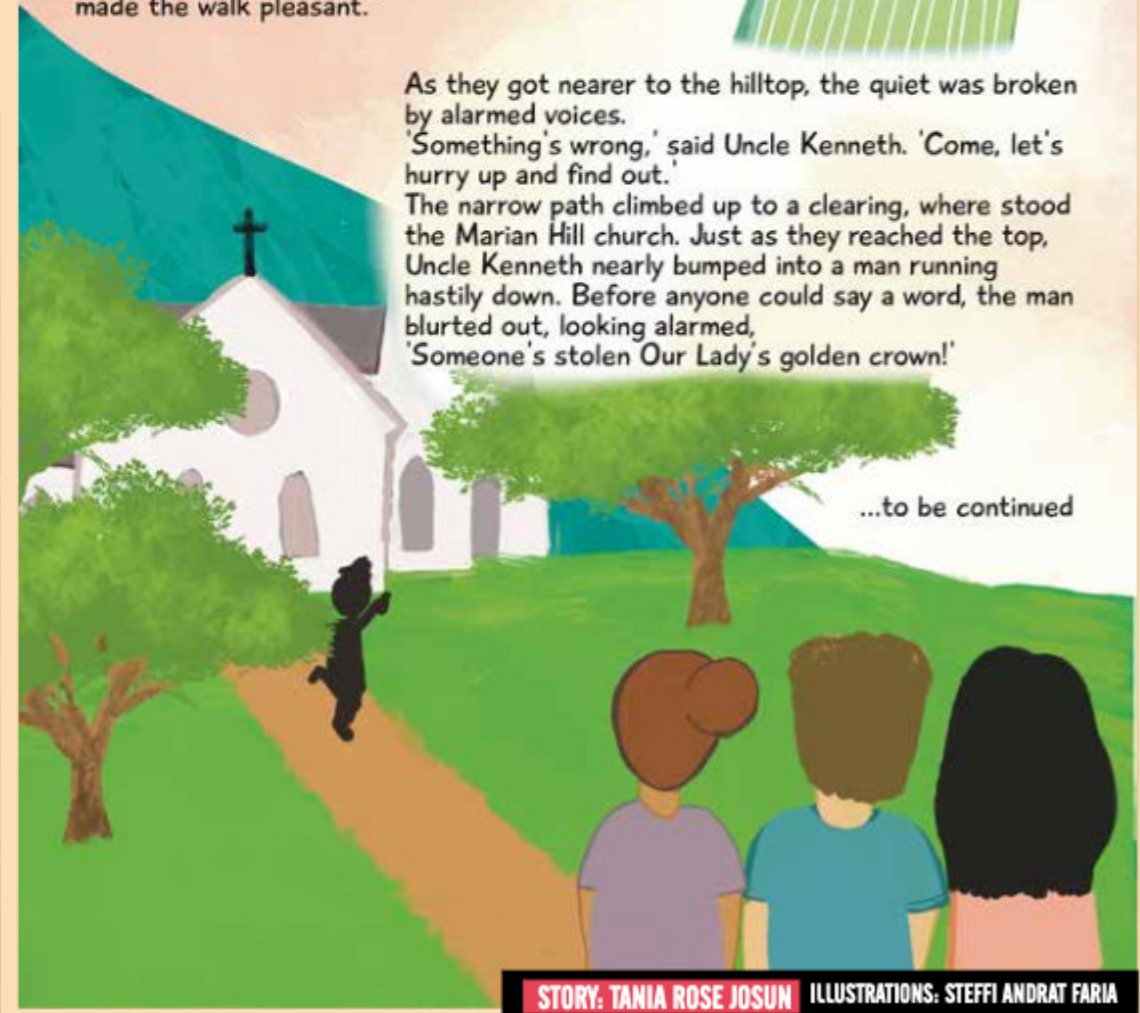


As they got nearer to the hilltop, the quiet was broken by alarmed voices.

'Something's wrong,' said Uncle Kenneth. 'Come, let's hurry up and find out.'

The narrow path climbed up to a clearing, where stood the Marian Hill church. Just as they reached the top, Uncle Kenneth nearly bumped into a man running hastily down. Before anyone could say a word, the man blurted out, looking alarmed, 'Someone's stolen Our Lady's golden crown!'

...to be continued



STORY: TANIA ROSE JOSUN ILLUSTRATIONS: STEFFI ANDRAT FARIA

BALLET SHOES

- ANNA-CLAIRE ANTHRAPER • 13 YRS

Ballet Shoes by Noel Streatfeild, is a well-known story which follows three young girls who grow up in early twentieth century London, and their not-so-normal life as they train to become professional dancers. Streatfeild was herself a gifted actress born into a large family who aspired for a life on stage, but later turned to writing. Through her skilful

weaving of the story, readers are entranced with the three Fossil girls and their life on Cromwell Road.

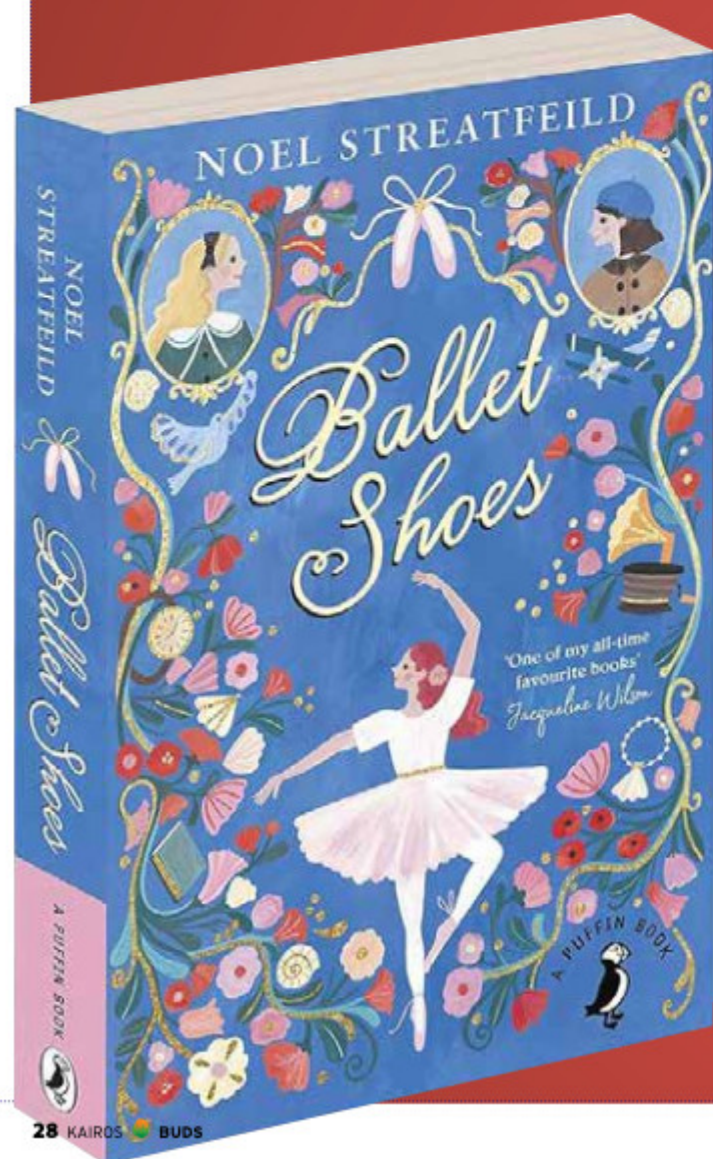
When Great-uncle Matthew (or GUM for short) went off on one of his numerous fossil hunting adventures, no one thought much of it, least of all his adult great-niece, Sylvia, and her childhood nurse, Nana. However, when sometime later he brought back a pretty orphan baby, as a present for his niece, the house on the furthest end of Cromwell Road was shaken to its dignified roots, as the child, named Pauline, was received

with much astonishment and joy on the part of the two women. The absent-minded professor left on another adventure very soon but eventually returned, this time with another baby girl. This child was happily admitted into the household with the name of Petrova, and was soon followed by a giggling baby girl called Posy who arrived in the post. Soon after Posy arrived, (along with a pair of ballet shoes) she was followed by a note saying that GUM would not be back for a long time and asked for his fossils (meaning the girls) to be well taken care of.

Golden-haired, with angelic features, Pauline was the

eldest and therefore the most practical. While harbouring a love for the stage, her first concern was the well-being of the family, often putting their needs before her own. Completely opposite to her older sister, Petrova had dark hair with pale, sallow features supposedly due to her Russian parentage. While the ballet classes went on, she spent her time soaring across the sky in her imaginary aeroplane. The youngest and most talented at dancing was red-headed Posy, who was often absent-minded as everything but ballet went right over her head.

After being admitted into an acting and dancing school, the Fossils lived very busy lives, each enjoying it in her own way. Pauline revelled in the acting classes in which she shone. Petrova suffered each day of school with a spartan attitude, longing for Sundays, on which she could spend her afternoon at the garage. Petrova adored anything with an engine, though her primary love was saved for aeroplanes. Posy, who had arrived at Cromwell road with ballet shoes, was such a talented dancer that she was tutored by the great Madame Fidolia herself.



This story may seem like a fantasy story, in which the characters are magically thrown into unreal situations but it's not. This is a simple testament of how working hard

brings good results. Each of the girls have different talents and values, which they nurture. That is the secret of their success. Perhaps under any other circumstance they would have never aimed for a life on the stage, and even when they were, Petrova followed her dreams to something different. To quote Pauline, 'I wonder... if other girls had to be one of us, which one they'd choose to be?' Well, who would you be?

KID CATHOPEDIA

Catholic Encyclopedia for kids!

- MARIA TERES SEBASTIAN

Bartholomew

Aramaic: Bar-Tolmai (בֶּרְתוֹלְמַי) | **MEANING: Son of Tolmai**
He was one of Jesus' twelve apostles and is found in the Gospels in the list of Apostles (Mark 3:18, Matthew 10:3, Luke 6:14). He is often identified with Nathanael in the Gospel of John (1:45-49). He was known for his honesty and deep faith. He is believed to have been present when Jesus appeared on the shore of the Sea of Tiberias after His resurrection.



Interesting Fact:

Some stories say that Bartholomew's skin was as tough as leather because he travelled so much, spreading the Good News in faraway places! He must have been very strong and determined.

Personal Application

Bartholomew was first doubtful when he heard about Jesus but was open to the truth when he encountered Him.

Sometimes, we might have doubts too, but like Bartholomew, we can ask questions and seek the truth with an open heart.

UNSCRAMBLE

- 1 STOASPLE** (Bartholomew was one of them)
.....
- 2 LIPPHI** (This friend introduced him to Jesus)
.....
- 3 HANATAELN** (Another name many believe was his)
.....

Answers: Apostles, Philip, Nathanael



Titles of Our Lady's Apparitions

Find out TWENTY titles associated with the various apparitions of Mother Mary.



ANSWERS

PAUL DISCOVERS HIS PASSION

Paul had been frustrated about life and finding his passion. On an errand at Mrs Thompson's house, she notices his unhappiness.

That's a big worry for a young boy like you.

Everyone else has it figured out! I've tried everything, and I'm not good at anything!

You know, when I was younger, I thought I had to find some grand purpose too.

'I didn't possess great talent, but I loved making people smile. So, I ran a small bakery... nothing famous, but enough to make someone's day better!'

But I realised something...

Passion isn't always about being the best at something. Sometimes, it's just about what makes you feel alive.

But what if I never find it?

You don't have to...

Paul's been helping Mrs Thompson with her garden lately.

Dude! Where've you been?

Just... living.

Paul may not have all the answers, but he feels a lot lighter ...

'Sometimes, passion isn't about chasing something. It's about being present in what's already there.'

SPOT TWELVE DIFFERENCE



NOT A MASERATI

A famous racing driver dies, and goes to heaven. At the gates, he meets St Peter waiting for him with a taxi, who explains that heaven got really big over the centuries that they now use cars.

After a few minutes of driving, the car racer asks St Peter to let him

drive, since he was a Formula One driver. Peter reluctantly agrees but insists that they maintain speed limits at all times. And so they change sides at a stop. The car racer drives at a speed that he quickly finds boring, but does not complain until a white sports car zips past, hundreds of miles faster.

'St Peter, with all due respect, I am following the rules, but what about that white Maserati that just passed?' The car racer asks.

'First of all,' says Peter, 'that was not a Maserati but the Nazarethi, and he is the Son of the Boss, okay?'



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