

# Budds

India, UK, Middle East & Hindi Editions

## Understanding Parables



**WITHIN**

**Shrine of Our  
Lady of Grace,  
Mentorella,  
Rome**

**HANGING OUT  
WITH JESUS**

# CARTOONS

- 06 Peter's Denial of Jesus
- 10 St Catherine Laboure - Part 3
- 26 The World has Hope



- 22 Guardian Angel Prayer Card
- 31 Puzzle
- 34 Guess the Word

# ACTIVITIES

- 16 Versive Writing
- 17 Colour Me
- 20 Word of Life

# WITHIN



# COOL CATHOLIC



04

# 08 THE PURPOSE OF THE PARABLES



# 30 KID CATHOPEDIA

Catholic Encyclopedia for kids!

# Barabbas



# 12 HANGING OUT WITH JESUS

- 28 Visio Divina
- 35 Holy Humour

# SMART KIDS

- 15 My Story
- 21 My Canvas

# 24 The Boxcar Children



# KAIROS Buds

**PATRON**  
Major Archbishop Mar Raphael Thattil  
(Ecclesiastical Advisor, Jesus Youth International)

**SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR**  
Fr Joseph Ezhumayil  
(Jesus Youth International Chaplain)

**PRINTER AND PUBLISHER**  
Dr Edward Edezhath

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
Dr Midhun Paul  
(Jesus Youth International Coordinator)

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**  
Nobin Jose

**MANAGING EDITOR**  
Joshy Joseph, Houston, USA

**EXECUTIVE EDITOR**  
Tania Rose Josun | (editor.buds@jykairosmedia.org)

**ISSUE EDITORS**  
Suby Emmanuel, India | Serena DSouza, USA | Sonu Michael, USA

**CIRCULATION COORDINATOR**  
Anto Puthur, Cochin, India +91 96055 11644

**ASSOCIATE CIRCULATION COORDINATORS**

**AUSTRALIA** Mintu Vijoy, Melbourne  
+61 452 538 785

**BAHRAIN:** Neenu Maria Jibin  
+973 33715472

**BANGLADESH** Tias Victor Palma  
+880 1717-152023

**CAMBODIA** Sophearong Ravy, Phnom Penh  
+855 96 426 5472

**CANADA** Abhilesh Thomas  
+1 289 952 1785

**EAST TIMOR** Noevia Maia Amaral  
+670 7625 5967

**GERMANY** Anna Paul, Berlin  
+49 176 83495451

**INDIA** Austin Michael, Mangalore  
+91 8277405251

**IRELAND** Suresh V Joy  
+353 87 963 0904

**ISRAEL** Darees Augustine  
+972 52 441 5530

**ITALY** Anoop P Varghese  
+39 3884256258

**KUWAIT** Rajeev J Chacko, Ahmadi  
+965 66388310

**MALAYSIA** Sweety Kamala Prasad  
+60 162568139

**NETHERLANDS** Jojo Varghese,  
Utrecht +31 684974552

**NEW ZEALAND** Derick Daniel,  
Auckland +64 29 127 0650

**OMAN** Sanal +968 92120376

**PAKISTAN** Asif Emmanuel  
+92 3022534254

**QATAR** Sijo C Johny  
+974 3357 2544

**SINGAPORE** Savio Francies  
+65 9021 9798

**SRILANKA** Sonal Fernando  
+94 77 3818399

**SWITZERLAND** Anu Jose  
+41 799177100

**THAILAND** Vineeth Andrew  
+66 86 372 6601

**UAE** Nelson Varghese  
+971 50 815 0050

**UGANDA** Mboowa Ronald  
+256 706844152

**UK** Mathachen Maduckakuzhy  
+44 7969 365686

**USA** Denny Joseph  
+1 (832) 640-3106

**FINANCE COORDINATOR**  
Leena Shaju, Cochin, India | +91 62382 79115 | finance@jykairosmedia.org

**DESIGN**  
Manna Media Hub, Delhi, India | info@mannaediahub.com

**MAILING ADDRESS**

● Kairos Media USA  
3010 Mason Grove Ln  
Pearland, TX,  
USA, 77584  
● +1 832 592 3675

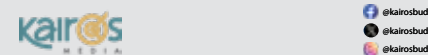
● Kairos Media India  
No 8/174, Navodaya  
Studio Complex,  
Thengod PO,  
Cochin, Kerala,  
India, Pin: 682030  
● +91 9895711718

● Kairos Media UK  
St Charles Street,  
Sheffield S9 3WU,  
United Kingdom  
● +44 7969365686



To subscribe to this magazine scan QR code or visit [www.jykairosmedia.org](http://www.jykairosmedia.org)

**DISCLAIMER:** Kairos Media is the mass media initiative of Jesus Youth, an international Catholic movement approved by the Holy See. Kairos Media considers its sources reliable and verifies as much data as possible. However, reporting inaccuracies can occur. Consequently, readers using this information do so at their own risk. While every effort has been made to ensure that information is correct at the time of print, Kairos Media cannot be held responsible for the outcome of any action or decision based on the information contained in this publication/website. The publishers or authors do not give any warranty for the completeness or accuracy of this publications' content, explanation, or opinion. Although persons and ministries mentioned herein are believed to be reputable, neither Kairos Media nor any of its employees, sales agents, or contributors accept any responsibility whatsoever for such persons and ministries activities. No part of this publications and/or website may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form without prior written permission from Kairos Media. Permission is only deemed valid if approval is in writing.



# EDITORIAL

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Dear Friends,  
We hope your Christmas was joyful and filled with the love of Baby Jesus 🎄❤️.  
Last month, we were in Bangalore, India, for the Jesus Youth International Assembly, and two exciting things happened for *Kairos Buds!* ✨ Our brand-new Hindi edition was launched, and the middle East printing also began. How wonderful it is to see your favourite Catholic magazine growing with God's abundant grace!

*This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes (Psalm 118:23).*  
The year 2025 was filled with many special moments for *Buds*.

Our *CraftCity* programme received a warm welcome in parishes around the world. Children loved the fun, creative activities that helped them grow closer to Jesus. We now have more than 10 exciting themes ready for *CraftCity!*

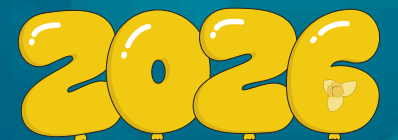
We were also delighted to see so many of you join our All Saints' Day initiative, lovingly called *Holy Habits* 🎅. This year, the most dressed-up saint was the inspiring young saint, *St Carlo Acutis!* Our Advent Calendar was another favourite ❤️, filled with meaningful little tasks to prepare your hearts for Christmas. Thank you for making it such a big hit!

As we step into a brand-new year, let's make one small promise together:

🍌 Let's do everything we can to make our Superhero Jesus smile every single day! ✨  
Wishing you and your family a blessed and joyful New Year 2026! ❄️

*Nobin Jose*

**NOBIN JOSE**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
[nobin.jose@jykairosmedia.org](mailto:nobin.jose@jykairosmedia.org)



# SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF GRACE

MENTORELLA, ROME

- DANIELA PAUL » 17 YRS

**High in the mountains outside Rome stands a hidden treasure of the Church: the Shrine of Our Lady of Grace at Mentorella. It's one of the oldest Marian shrines in Europe, and for centuries Catholics have climbed its steep paths to pray, reflect, and draw closer to Christ through Mary.**

**T**he shrine is built on a rocky cliff more than 3,000 feet above the valley below.

When pilgrims reach the top, they enter a simple stone church that holds something extraordinary: a 13th-century wooden statue of Mary holding the Child Jesus. Many who visit say the shrine's silence and beauty make it a perfect place to talk to God from the heart.

The mountain has deep roots in Catholic history. According to tradition, St Eustachius, a 2nd-century Roman encountered Christ here in a vision that changed his life. Later, St Benedict, the father of Western monasticism, lived in a small cave just steps



*Mentorella also has a special place in the lives of popes. St John Paul II visited regularly, even before he became pope. He said it was one of the places where he felt closest to Mary. Other popes have followed his example, visiting the shrine for quiet prayer away from the busy world.*



from the shrine while he prayed and sought God's will. Pilgrims can still enter the cave today, where candles flicker in the darkness and remind visitors of the light of faith.

A pilgrimage to Mentorella isn't just a



At the shrine, pilgrims light candles, pray the Rosary, walk to St Benedict's cave, and stand before Our Lady of Grace, asking her to guide them just as she guided the saints and popes who came before.

hike, it's a chance to grow spiritually. The climb up the mountain challenges your body, while the quiet at the top challenges your soul. For teens, it's a powerful reminder that faith takes effort, courage, and moments of silence.

**The Mentorella shrine teaches one clear lesson: when we climb towards Mary, she always leads us closer to Jesus.**





Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard after Jesus had been taken to the high priest, when one of the maids came over to him.

You also were with Jesus of Galilee.

# PETER'S DENIAL OF JESUS

(MATTHEW 26: 69-75)

But Peter denied it in front of everyone.

I don't know what you're talking about.

As he went out to the gate, another girl saw him and said to those who were there.

This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth.

He denied it again, with an oath, 'I don't know the man!'

After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said:

Surely you are one of them; your accent gives you away.

Then Peter began to call down curses, and he swore to them.

I don't know the man!

Immediately a rooster crowed. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken.

Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.

And Peter went outside and wept bitterly.

STORY: SR. SUMA THOMAS CSM

ILLUSTRATIONS: SOOSANNA JAXON

# THE PURPOSE OF THE PARABLE

(Matthew 13:10-17)

'A Parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.'

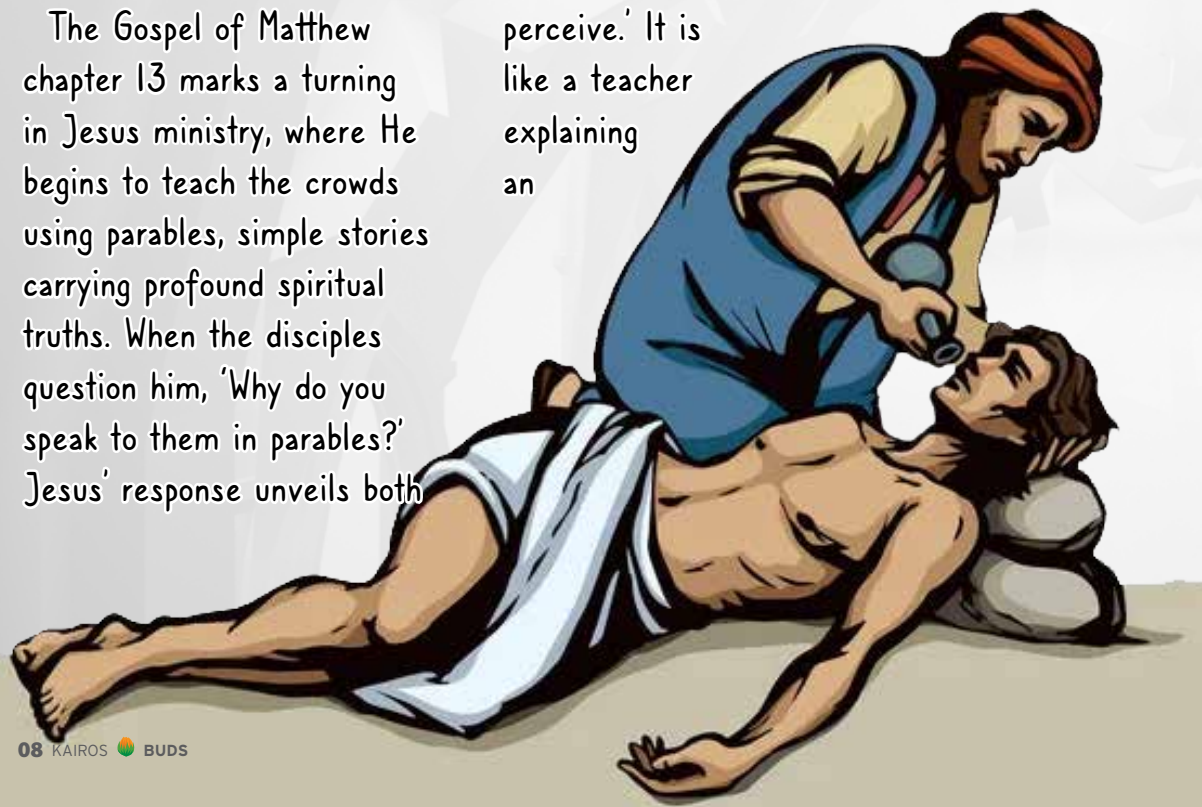
- SR ANCY JOHN

Parables are simple stories that Jesus used to teach important lessons about God, faith, kindness, and a life to be lived here on earth.

The Gospel of Matthew chapter 13 marks a turning in Jesus ministry, where He begins to teach the crowds using parables, simple stories carrying profound spiritual truths. When the disciples question him, 'Why do you speak to them in parables?' Jesus' response unveils both

the mystery and the solemnity of divine understanding.

Through the prophecy of Isaiah, Jesus tells the disciples, 'You shall indeed hear but never understand and you shall indeed see but never perceive.' It is like a teacher explaining an



important lesson in class: some children listen and understand because they pay attention and want to get good marks in their exams, but others hear but don't learn because they aren't attentive and take their studies less seriously. Likewise, here Jesus uses parables to teach the people about the truth of life but many receive the Word of God but don't take it



to heart, whereas some receive the Word of God and carry them throughout their life and they receive blessings because of it. There are many parables that Jesus taught. Some of them are explained below.

The Parable of the Good Samaritan teaches us to help others without any discrimination (Luke 10:25-37).

The Parable of the Ten Virgins instructs us to always be ready and follow God's ways because we never know when Jesus will come (Matthew 25:1-13).

The Parable of the Prodigal Son shows us that even if we make mistakes God still loves us and happily welcomes us back when we repent (Luke 15:11-32).

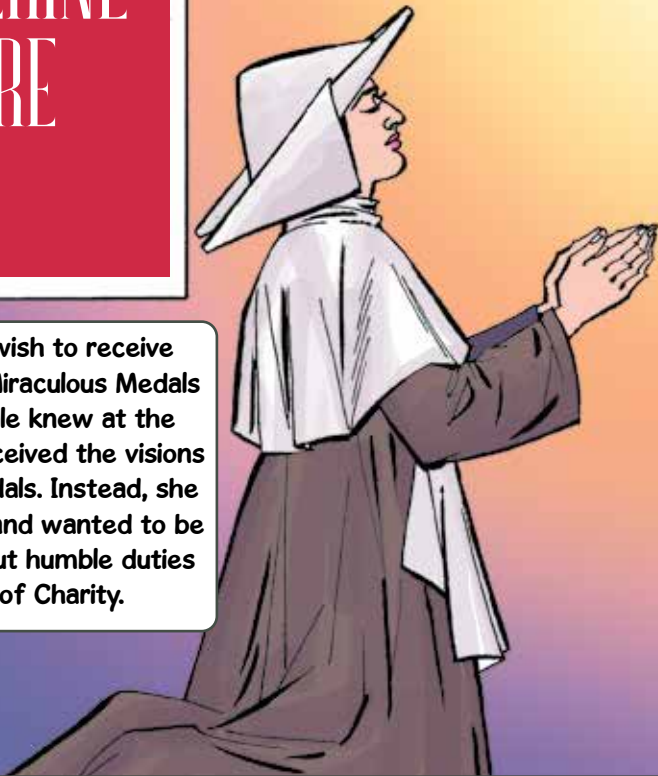


**PARABLES TEACH US TIMELESS LESSONS OF KINDNESS, COURAGE, AND HOPE. IN A CHANGING WORLD, MAY WE LISTEN WITH OPEN HEARTS, CHOOSE GOODNESS DAILY, AND BECOME BRIGHT LIGHTS FOR OTHERS.**

# ST CATHERINE LABOURE

## Part 3

Catherine did not wish to receive recognition for the Miraculous Medals and very few people knew at the time that she had received the visions which led to the medals. Instead, she fled from any fame and wanted to be left alone to carry out humble duties as a Daughter of Charity.



Catherine spent the next forty years of her life looking after the elderly, sick and disabled as an ordinary nursing sister. She was kind and well-liked by patients. Her fellow nuns held her in great esteem and desired to be her companion.



In 1876, Catherine felt a spiritual realisation that she would die before the end of the year. Mother Mary allowed Catherine to speak, to break the silence of forty-six years. To her Sister Superior, Catherine revealed the fact that she was the sister to whom the Blessed Mother appeared.

I knew nothing. I was nothing. For this reason, God picked me out.



Catherine died in peace on 31 December 1876. Her body was encased in glass beneath the side altar in the Chapel of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in Paris. Her body was discovered to be incorrupt after being exhumed in 1933 which meant that her eyes still sparkled. St Catherine Labouré is the patron saint of the elderly, infirmed people and the Miraculous Medal. Her feast day is celebrated on 28th November.

I am going to heaven... to see Our Lord, His Mother and Saint Vincent.



# HANGING OUT WITH JESUS

- FR JUSTIN JOSEPH PANACHICKAL MSFS



Hey Friends,

Starting this month, we are beginning a journey to better understand the Holy Mass and to learn how to love it and live it!

## What exactly is the Holy Mass?

Holy Mass in simple terms, is the highest form of our prayer – **the source and summit** of our Catholic Faith and Worship. The name 'Mass' comes from the Latin word *Missa*, meaning 'sending' or 'mission,' which is derived from the dismissal at the end of the service: *Ite, missa est* (Go, it is the sending). It is also known as the Eucharist, which comes from the Greek word *eucharistia*, meaning 'thanksgiving' or 'gratitude.'

Think of it as a most special family gathering, but with Jesus right in the centre. The Holy Mass is that time of actually 'hanging out' with Jesus in person, not just remembering Him from a distance. It's not just sitting in a church – it's a big celebration where we remember what Jesus did for us (Last supper, Passion, Death and Resurrection – collectively known as the Paschal Mystery), and we get to be close to Him in a super real way. We gather as one family and offer thanks to God and share in what Jesus gave us at His last supper with His friends.

At Mass, something amazing happens: the bread and wine that the priest blesses become Jesus' Body and Blood. In every other prayer we receive blessing from the Lord but in the Holy Eucharist we receive Jesus Himself. Though the shape and form doesn't change, the content



(substance) changes to be His most precious Body and Blood. This happens not because of the priest's power but by the power of the priesthood of Jesus given to the priest in the sacrament of Holy Orders. During Mass, it is Jesus Himself who celebrates the sacrament through the priest. This is what makes Holy Mass most important – we encounter the true living presence of our

Lord and we become one with Jesus in Holy Communion, for He told us in John 6 – *Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.* Jesus instituted the Holy Eucharist as a sacrament during the Last Supper, enabling us to receive the merits of His Sacrifice and to remain in communion with Him.

## The Mass is consisted of two parts:

### The Liturgy of the Word



This is where we listen to the Word of God. We hear readings from different passages, a Psalm, and the Gospel by the priest which he explains and connects it to our daily life. Here God speaks directly to us. We must keep in mind that it is through the Bible that we listen to God and know more about God. It is also our Spiritual Bread (Mt 4:4, Deut 8:3, 1 Pet 2:2). We always receive and are nourished by two kinds of bread from the same table (Altar), that of the Word of God and Christ's Body (*Dei Verbum*, #21).

### The Liturgy of the Eucharist



This is the sacramental part, where the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus. Here we take part in the Paschal mystery of Jesus, remember what He did for us, offer our prayers and thanks as children of God and as one family, become nourished by the Body and Blood of our Lord, and receive the merit of salvation offered to us through the Sacrifice of Jesus at the Cross.

## Why is the Mass so important?

Okay, now why bother going every week (or every day)? Because Holy Mass isn't just a rule – it's like the battery that charges up your faith and life! Without it, our spiritual life would run out of energy, just like a phone without plugging in. We will learn more about it as we move along, but here are some important points to note:

## Mass helps you to meet Jesus personally.

In a world full of distractions like video games, school stress, or social media drama, Mass is your time to hang out with God. Early Christians even said, 'Without Sunday Eucharist, we cannot live!' They knew it gives real life – eternal life – that nothing else can. Think of it as a dinner out, with Jesus inviting you to His table, like a best friend sharing a meal that makes you feel loved and strong.

## Mass is a re- presentation of the Sacrifice of Christ.

It is not some symbolic representation but making present again the Sacrifice of Christ at Calvary, without bloodshed. The same priest and the same victim, Jesus Christ, offering Himself as a sacrifice in atonement for our sins and for our salvation to God the Father.

## Mass is something that we give, not something that we get.

Worship and sacrifice are where we give something. Here we give to God the Father praise, glory, honour and adoration, and the benefits we receive are secondary.



## It's the secret of our energy.

Like an energy drink, we should know that as children of God, the Mass gives us super-energy through the Word of God and Communion. Jesus comes into us and we become one with him – WOW – that's super-sweet-strength.

## It only becomes boring because we want it to entertain us.

Think about how much God loves our presence and how we can give Him our respect and love. Remember it's not about getting, it's all about what we can give. Sunday is an obligation because Jesus resurrected on that day and God wants us to keep that day holy and set apart for worship. It's the least we can do on our part.

We will stop here for now. There are many more things for us to discuss. Hope this gives you a little extra information and inspiration. C'mon, let's go for Mass and hang-out with Jesus, our Big Bro and our Best Friend.

# NEVER ALONE

- TRESA MARY SHINE » 13 YRS



*Dear Dairy,*

*Tomorrow I'm going on my first school trip for three days.*

*At first I was excited, but then I began to feel scared, 'What will I do without my parents? What if I got lost? I freaked out and almost wished I was not going. But Mom saw my terrified face and asked me, 'What's the matter Jack? I hesitated for a moment, and then I broke down telling her that I was scared of going alone. Mom looked into my eyes and said, 'Jack you are not alone, remember what your Heavenly Father has said in Matthew 28:20: "I am with you always until the end of the age." Remember that wherever you go your Heavenly Father is with you.'*

*I calmed down and began to smile, knowing that I am never alone, and now I will try to have a great time on the trip.*

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

*I am with you always until the end of the age.*

- (Matthew 28:20)

*I am with you always until the end of the age.*

*I am with you always until the end of the age.*

*I am with you always until the end of the age.*

*I am with you always until the end of the age.*

*I am with you always until the end of the age.*

*I am with you always until the end of the age.*

*I am with you always until the end of the age.*

*I am with you always until the end of the age.*

*I am with you always until the end of the age.*

*I am with you always until the end of the age.*

*I am with you always until the end of the age.*

*I am with you always until the end of the age.*

*I am with you always until the end of the age.*

*I am with you always until the end of the age.*



# St Francis de Sales



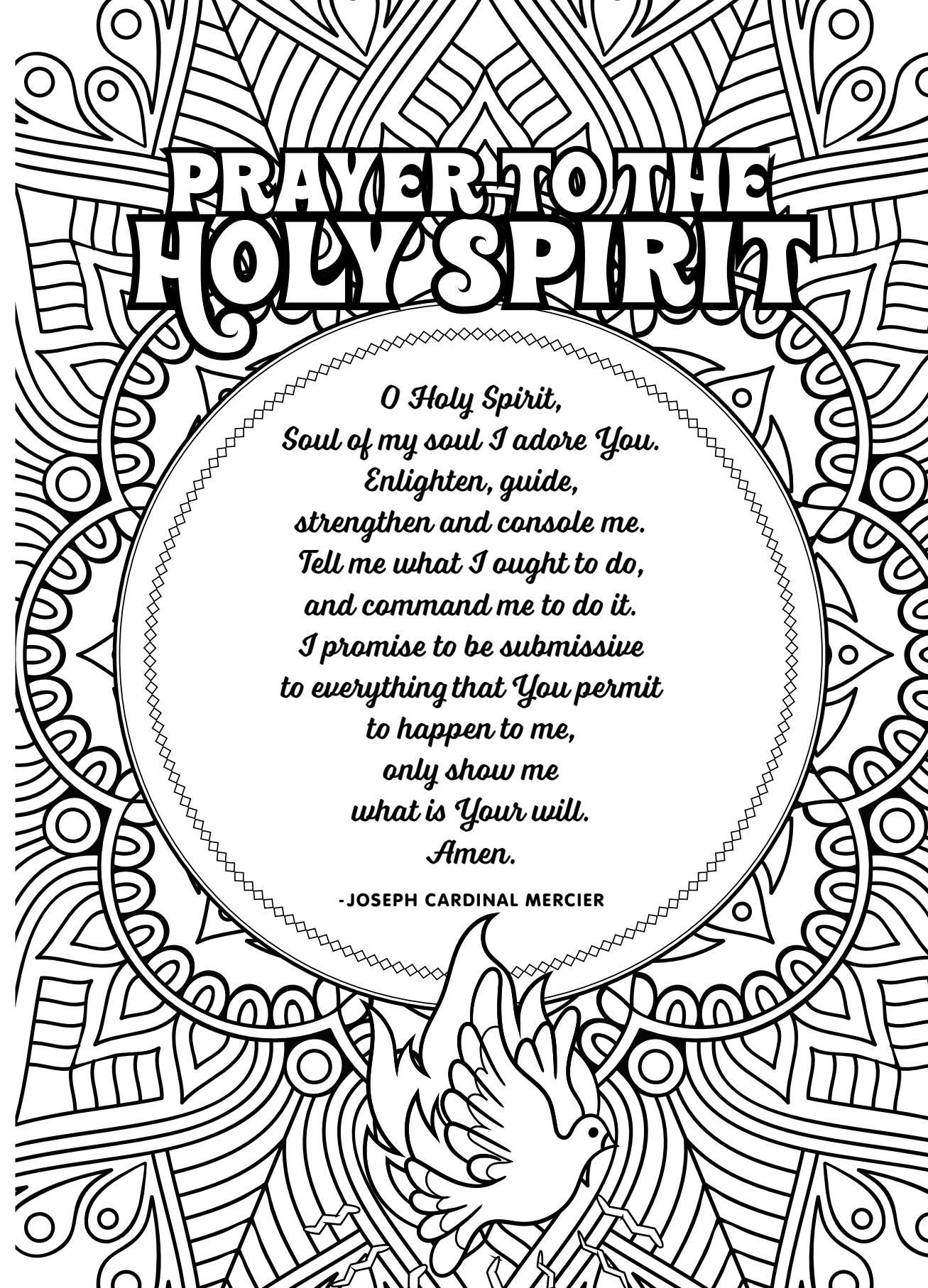
**At the start of a brand new year,  
let us ask the Holy Spirit to be with us  
and guide us every step of the way.**



# PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

*O Holy Spirit,  
Soul of my soul I adore You.  
Enlighten, guide,  
strengthen and console me.  
Tell me what I ought to do,  
and command me to do it.  
I promise to be submissive  
to everything that You permit  
to happen to me,  
only show me  
what is Your will.  
Amen.*

- JOSEPH CARDINAL MERCIER



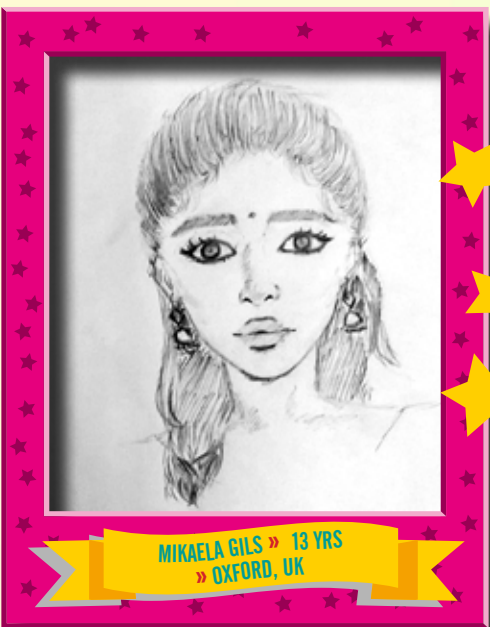
# 'Learn and Colour'

The knowledge about the secrets of the Kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them.

Matthew 13:11



## LITTLE MASTERS



SOPHIA PAUL » 13 YRS » HOUSTON, USA



JOSHUA PAUL » 8 YRS » HOUSTON, USA



JUANA MARY BRISTOW » 7 YRS » JEDDAH, SAUDI ARABIA



MARY CALONGE » 6 YRS » OHIO, USA



AGNES MIRIAM PRAVEEN » 8 YRS » UK



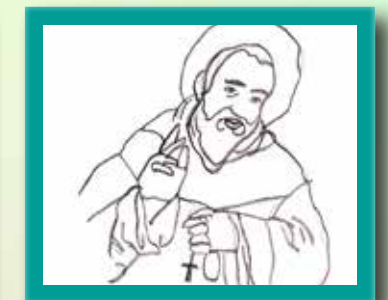
IGNATIUS JOSEPH » 10 YRS » SAN JOSE, USA



MISHKA A TAURO » 6 YRS » BANGALORE, INDIA



ISAIHS SHIBU » 12 YRS » CHERTHALA, INDIA



Art and articles can be sent by email to [kairosbuds@jykairosmedia.org](mailto:kairosbuds@jykairosmedia.org). Please include full name, age, place/country.

# Guardian Angel Prayer Card

- ROSE MARY TOM

@potterandhisclay

## MATERIALS

- A sheet of thick white paper (12 x 10 cm)
- 2 square sheets of paper (preferably coloured, glitter, or printed) - one large and one small, as shown in the picture
- Glue, glue gun, or stapler
- Pen or colour pens
- A small piece of twine
- Optional: 1 round bead



*Guardian Angel Prayer*  
 Angel of God, My guardian  
 dear, To whom his love  
 commits me here; Ever this  
 day (or night) Be at my  
 side, To light and guard,  
 To rule and guide.  
 Amen.

1



2



3



## STEPS

### Step 1: Prepare the Angel's Body

- Take the large square colour paper.
- Fold it in a zigzag (accordion) manner as shown in the picture.
- Fold it again at the centre.
- Secure the centre with glue or a stapler to form a cone-like shape.
- This will be the angel's body.

### 2. Prepare the Angel Wings

- Take the small square colour paper and cut it in half.
- Fold each half in a zigzag manner.
- Make a small fold at one end of each piece.
- Attach the folded ends to the back of the angel's body using glue or a stapler.



4



5



- These will be the wings.

### 3. Attach the Twine and Optional Bead

- Fix the twine to the pointed end of the angel's body.
- If using a bead, thread it onto the twine to create the angel's face, then attach the twine to the body as shown in the picture.

### 4. Prepare the Prayer Card

- Take the thick white paper.
- Using colour pen, write the Guardian Angel Prayer, leaving some space at the top.
- Decorate or colour the card as you like.

### 5. Assemble the Card

- Attach the completed angel to the white prayer card.

Your handmade Guardian Angel Prayer Card is ready. You may hang it in your room to pray daily to your Guardian Angel.

# THE BOXCAR CHILDREN

by Gertude Chandler Warner

- ANNA-CLAIRE ANTHRAPER » 13 YRS

A little known children's masterpiece is the *Boxcar Children* series. Written by the talented writer and schoolteacher Gertude Chandler Warner, it follows the adventures of the Alden children, and the mysteries they solve with

help of friends. With 19 books written by the original author herself, and hundreds more written by others enchanted by Warner's writing style, the Boxcar children have travelled around the globe, from their mansion in New England, to famous cities such as Seattle or Paris, and back home to their little boxcar in the woods of Silver City.

Henry, the eldest of the four siblings, fends for their family with a courageous and humble heart, staying strong during difficult times for others. Next comes the unofficial mother of the siblings, Jessie, who makes sure everyone eats, sleeps, and stays healthy. Violet comes next, and she adds a little artistic touch to everywhere they go, making it feel a little more like home. Last but most definitely not least is Benny, everyone's baby and the youngest of them all. Of course,

***Henry, the eldest of the four siblings, fends for their family with a courageous and humble heart, staying strong during difficult times for others.***

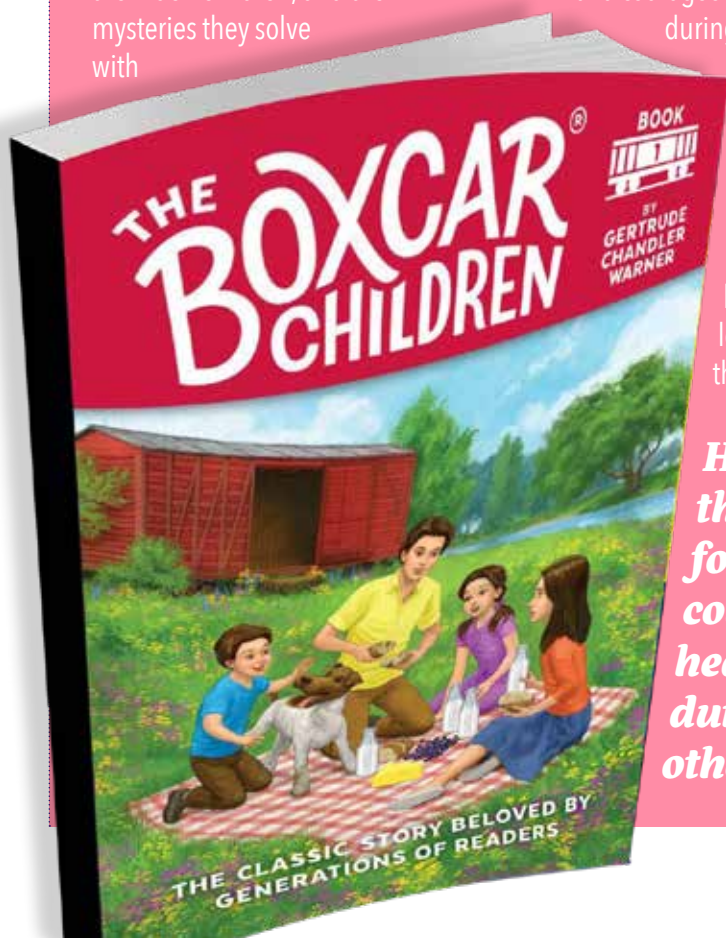
Jessie's dog, Watch, cannot be forgotten, as he frequently helps the siblings out, in one mystery or another.

The story opens with the children who are still young, running away from home, for fear that a grandfather they have never met will take them away, after the tragic death of their parents in an unknown accident. The children believe that their grandfather is cruel and harsh, since he never reached out to them during their parents' lifetime. Deciding to move around, they look for a place to call home and accidentally stumble upon a boxcar (train carriage for transporting goods). Jessie and Violet skilfully manage to make the compact room feel more comfortable by adding a little bit of home everywhere. Henry starts doing odd jobs for a kind doctor who lives nearby, to receive money for food, but says not a word about who he really is. Meanwhile, the other three Aldens have plenty of adventures, such as Benny learning how to read, and Watch getting a haircut with hilarious results.

After the first book the Aldens travel far and wide, throughout America, other continents, eventually the

whole globe, earning themselves a reputation as mystery solvers. Not detectives, like Father Brown or Sherlock Holmes, but more like private investigators, who help out family and friends close to their heart. Through the course of their adventures, they bring many families, communities, and people together, yet what really attracts others to the Aldens' is their commitment and love for one another. Despite factors that attempt to come between them, Henry, Jessie, Violet, and Benny live out a truth which the world nowadays has forgotten.

***The Boxcar Children by Gertude Chandler Warner is a wonderful set of books to read when you need something that keeps you on the edge of your seat yet also heartwarming, and while I stand by the belief that the original nineteen books are best, the others hold the same charm that has made the Aldens so appealing to children worldwide.***

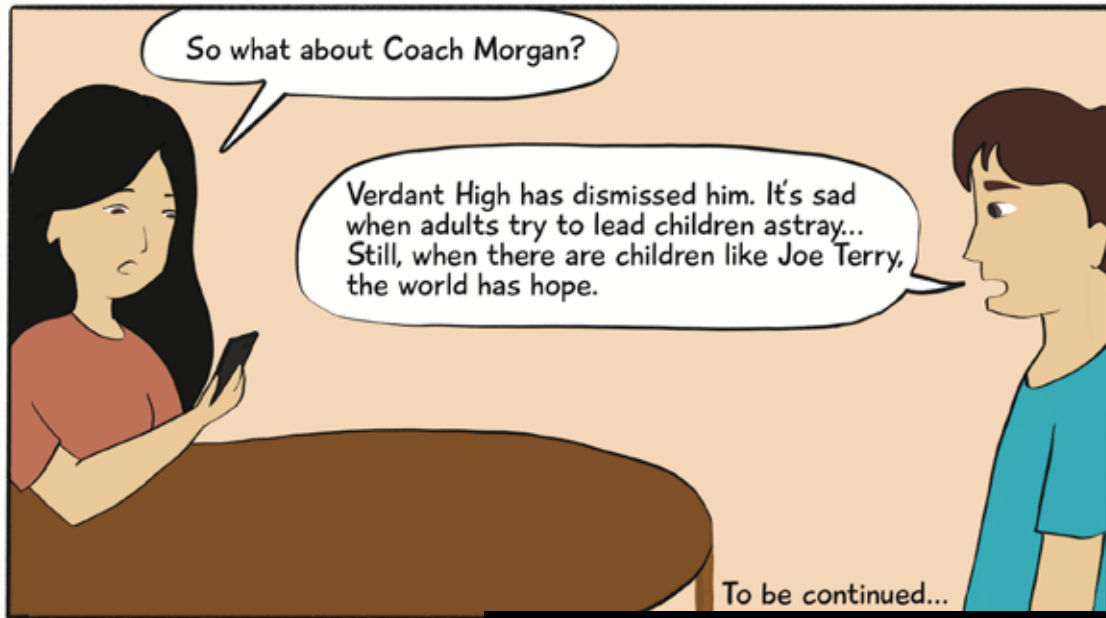
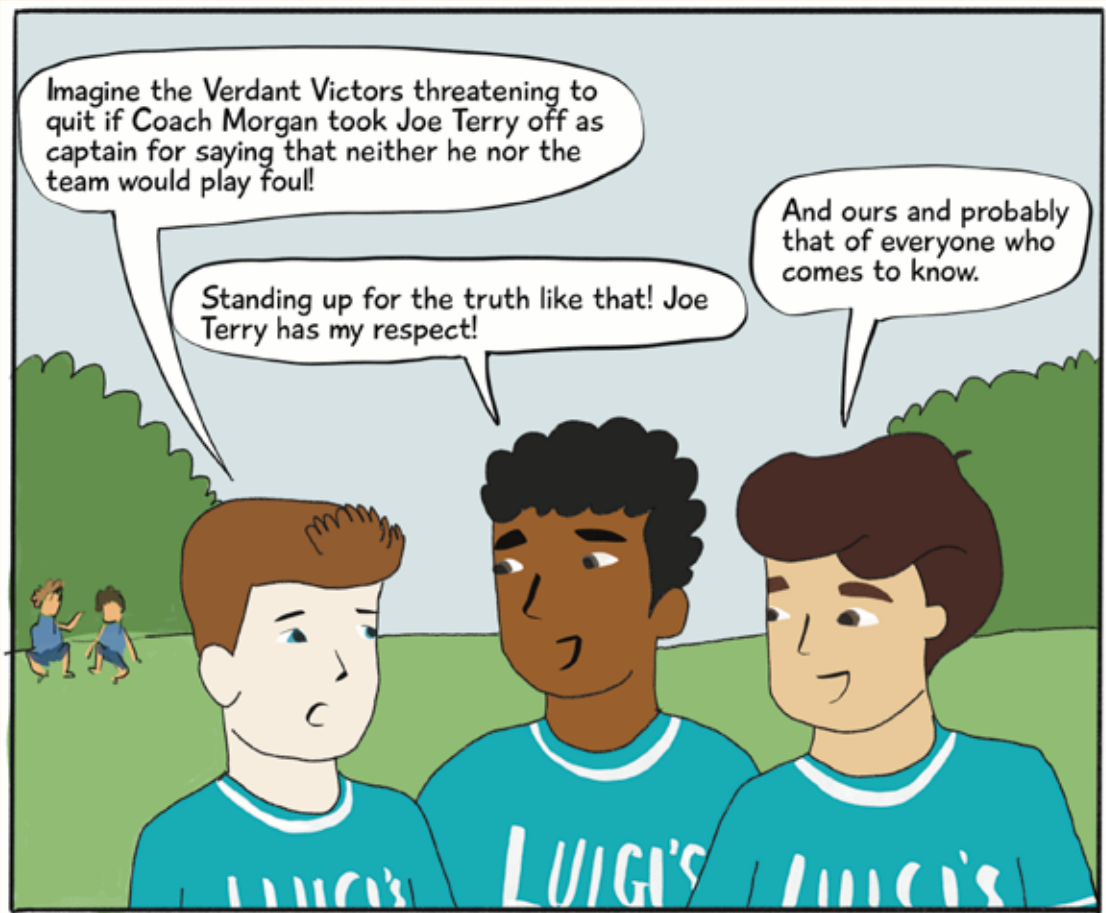


# The World Has Hope

AS ST GEORGE'S HIGH GEARS UP TO HOST THE FIRST COACH RAMSEY MEMORIAL FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT IN A FEW DAYS, SOME DEVELOPMENTS SEEM TO HAVE COLONISED EVERYONE'S ATTENTION, FROM THE SUPPORT STAFF...



... TO THE PLAYERS.





## Ognissanti Madonna by Giotto di Bondone

- DR GINTO POTTACKAL



**DO YOU KNOW WHAT OGNISSANTI MADONNA MEANS?** These are Italian words: *Ognissanti* translates to 'All Saints,' and *Madonna* means My Lady, a title traditionally used for the Virgin Mary. This famous altarpiece of Mother Mary holding Jesus was painted by the Italian artist Giotto di Bondone for the Church of Ognissanti, situated in the city of Florence, Italy.

Do you know what *Ognissanti Madonna* means? These are Italian words: *Ognissanti* translates to 'All Saints,' and *Madonna* means My Lady, a title traditionally used for the Virgin Mary. This famous altarpiece of Mother Mary holding Jesus was painted by the Italian artist Giotto di Bondone for the Church of Ognissanti, situated in the city of Florence, Italy. Giotto created this masterpiece in 1310. In this huge painting, more than 10 feet high, the Virgin Mary

was a pioneer in depicting emotions like joy, rage, and despair in the faces of his figures. He is renowned for his frescoes in churches such as the Scrovegni Chapel in Padua and the Basilica of St Francis in Assisi, where he painted scenes from the lives of Christ, the Virgin Mary, and saints.

Giotto was a devout Catholic, and his Catholic faith was central to his life and artistic work. He painted numerous Christian themes. His famous painting in the Scrovegni Chapel depicts

**In this painting, Giotto uses shading and volume to give Mary a solid, lifelike presence. Her dark blue cloak adds depth and richness to the painting. Gold accents and detailed designs on her dress and throne highlight her royal status as the Queen of All Saints. This is the first time in the history of western painting, both the Madonna and the Child appear to be inserted in a realistic scene.**

is seated on a throne holding the Christ Child on her lap, surrounded by angels and saints.

Giotto was born in 1266 in the village of Vespignano near Florence, Italy. There is nothing much known about his early days until he was thirty-years-old. He revolutionised Italian art by introducing naturalistic and emotionally expressive figures, emphasising the human connection to the divine. Giotto

stories from the lives of Jesus and Mary. In addition, frescoes in the Basilica of Saint Francis focus on the life of St Francis. He was commissioned for works of the Last Judgment fresco in the Arena Chapel, and a mosaic for St. Peter's Basilica. Later in life, he was appointed chief architect of Florence Cathedral, underscoring his esteemed role within the Church. Widely regarded as the father of the Italian Renaissance, Giotto's innovations laid the foundation for a new era in Western art.

## Barabbas

Aramaic: אבא רב

MEANING: SON OF THE FATHER

Barabbas was a notorious criminal, a murderer or rebel, chosen by the Jewish crowd over Jesus to be released on Passover.

He's found in all four Gospels: Matthew 27:16, Mark 15:7, Luke 23:18-19, John 18:40

### Interesting Facts:

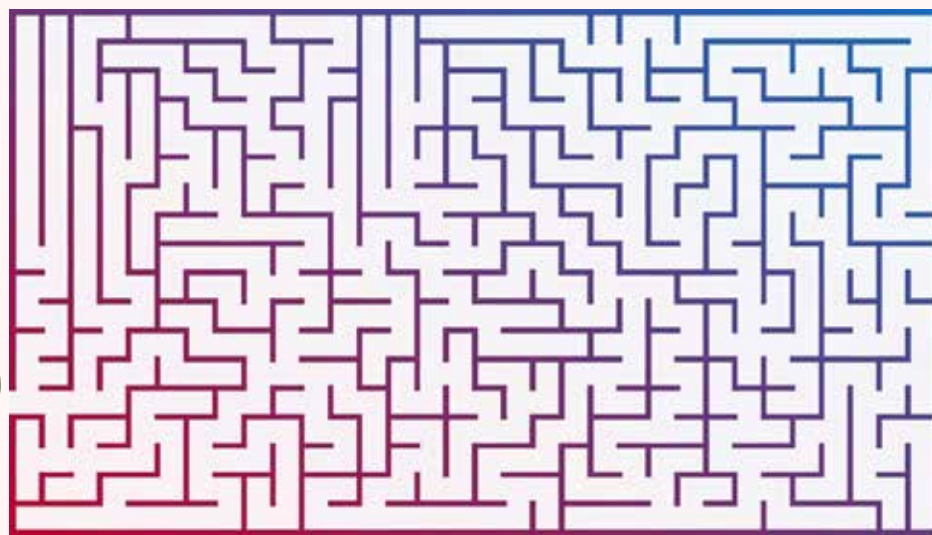
The people chose Barabbas, the 'Son of the Father' over Jesus, the true Son of God.



### Personal Application :

The crowd's demand to release Barabbas points to our tendency to choose earthly concerns over the divine, just as they chose Barabbas over Jesus. Let us pray that we find our way from earthly ways to divine providence.

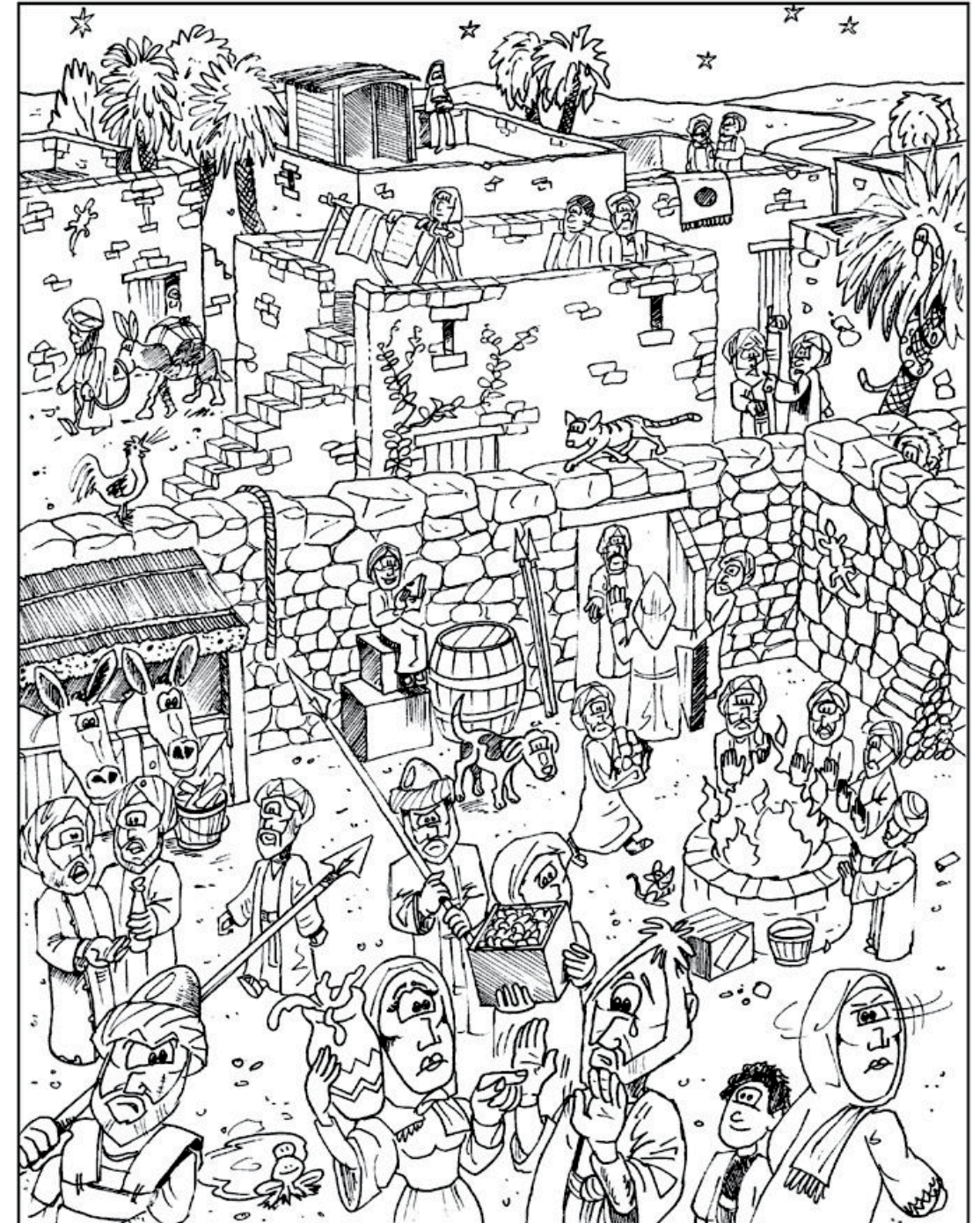
*Find your way from Barabbas to Jesus.*



### Look and Find

Can you find:

- a dog a frog
- a child eating, sitting on a box
- a carpet with a spot on it
- a snake in a tree
- 2 lizards on 2 walls
- a woman hanging out washing
- a cockerel crowing
- 2 spears leaning against a wall





But it was right here...

It began as a simple disappearance.



Children, I've lost something precious... my mentor's rosary.

Fr Dominic tells his young friends about it.



I think I may have accidentally donated it with my coat.

Donated!? Where exactly, Father...?



The clothing drive sent items to various mission stations.

At the ware house for mission donations.



Father, we'll find it! We'll go there right now!

No promises father... But we'll do our best.



This tells us where yesterday's donations went.

There are THREE possible drop points!



Well... many boxes were mixed up. Some even fell during transport.

Fell WHERE exactly?

Er... somewhere around... the market?



The friends reach the market in hopes of tracking Fr Dominic's coat.

We're looking for ONE coat in ALL THIS?

We search. We don't panic.



Found it!... Oh. This is a curtain.

Father Domanic in floral pink? No way.

That evening, the three friends return to the mission warehouse.



Yes, I saw a coat... a blue one... or may be green...

Most unreliable witnesses EVER!

A young man took it! Or a woman! Hard to say!



You can't enter now. Too late.

But something else was happening...

We'll come at dawn then.

Please let the rosary still be somewhere inside...



'For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.'

# Guess the Word

Guess the missing words of the Bible verse from the clues and from the words in the jumble.

WAY PAST CEASES MORNING MERCIES  
 FAITHFULNESS CONSIDER SPRINGS LOVE NEW  
 REMEMBER STEADFAST NEW RIVERS end

..... (bring to mind) **not the events of the**  
 ..... (time gone), **the things of long ago**  
 ..... (think carefully) **not. See,**  
**I am doing something** ..... (opposite of old!) **Now it**  
 ..... (originate from) **forth, do you not perceive**  
**it? In the wilderness I make a** ..... (path), **in the wasteland,**  
 ..... (body of moving water {plural}). **(Isaiah 43:18-19)**

**The** ..... (unwavering) .....  
 (intense feeling of deep affection) **of the Lord never,**  
 ..... (come to an end (plural)); **his**  
 ..... (compassion (plural)) **never come to an**  
 ..... (to finish or stop); **they are** ..... (opposite of old)  
**every** ..... (when you wake up); **great is your**  
 ..... (being loyal).

**(Lamentations 3:22-23)**

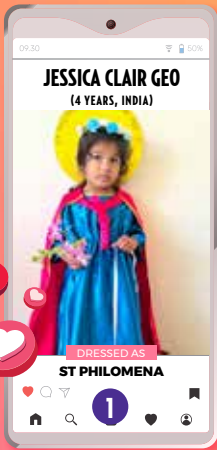


# TOP 5

# Holy Habits 2025

Most Liked (Top 5) on Instagram

PHOTO CATEGORY



Most Liked (Top 5) on Instagram

REELS CATEGORY

