

Buds

WITHIN

**Mariazell
Basilica,
Austria**

LUMINOUS
LIBRARY:
FARMER BOY

LET US GROW IN
PRUDENCE



WITHIN

KAIROS
Buds

MARIAZELL
BASILICA,
AUSTRIA



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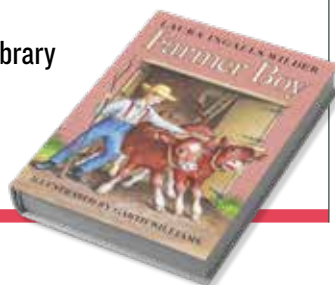
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EDITORIAL



Charioteer of the Virtues

Have you ever had to make a decision and wondered about the best choice? Maybe it was deciding whether to study for a test or play outside, or whether to own up about something you did. These moments are chances to use one of God's greatest gifts: prudence.

Prudence is the virtue that helps us think carefully before we act. It's like having a compass for our choices, guiding us toward what is good and away from what might harm us or others. Prudence helps us pause, think, and pray about our decisions before jumping into action. Saint Thomas Aquinas, a brilliant teacher of the Church, called prudence the 'charioteer of the virtues.' This means that prudence helps guide all the other virtues, like kindness, courage, and patience, to work together in harmony.

Imagine you're building a sandcastle at the beach. If you're not careful about where you build it, the waves might wash it away. Prudence is like checking the shoreline first, making sure your castle stands strong. In life, prudence helps us build our actions on a solid foundation of love and wisdom. Prudence is also important because our choices affect not only us but also those around us. For example, if a friend is feeling sad, prudence helps you decide the best way to comfort them. Maybe it's a kind word, a hug, or just sitting quietly with them. Prudence helps us choose what will bring the most good and reflect God's love.

Remember, every choice you make is part of the big adventure God has planned for you. By practising prudence, you're not only making smart decisions but also becoming the person God made you to be - someone full of love, wisdom, and goodness. So, the next time you face a choice, take a deep breath, pray, and let the gift of prudence guide you. With God's help, you'll shine brightly and make the world a better place!

Stay prudent and joyful in Christ.

Nobin Jose

Nobin Jose, Singapore

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MARIAZELL BASILICA, AUSTRIA

- DHANYA MATHEW » 14 YRS

Mariazell Basilica's sacred history traces back to 1157, when a monk named Magnus carried a wooden statue of the Virgin Mary into the area.

Legend tells that the statue helped Magnus overcome an impassable rock, splitting it in two to clear his path. In gratitude, he built a small chapel to house the statue.

Over time, countless miracles and answered prayers attributed to the statue earned the site its reputation as a place of divine intervention. The title 'Our Lady of Victories' emerged from stories of intercession and triumph, particularly during moments of national struggle. Pilgrims have long believed that prayers at Mariazell helped secure victories over adversity, whether in personal trials or collective challenges.

The basilica is an extraordinary blend of Gothic, Baroque, and Romanesque styles, reflecting centuries of additions and renovations. Its most iconic feature is the Baroque façade, crowned by

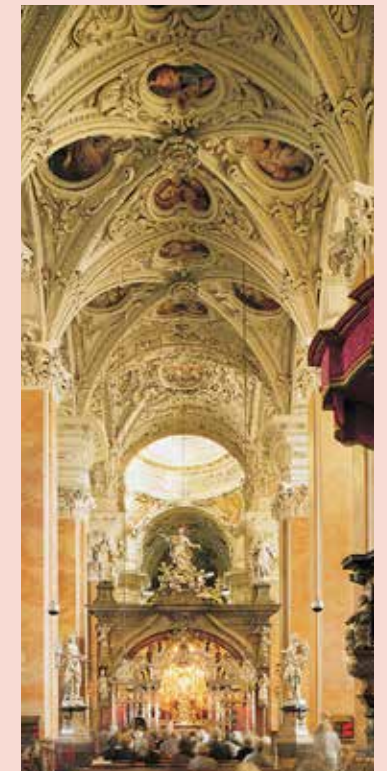
a central Gothic spire and flanked by two imposing towers. The interior is equally breathtaking, with intricately gilded altars, vibrant frescoes, and the venerated Marian statue enshrined in the Lady Chapel.

The central statue, known as the *Magna Mater Austriae* (Great Mother of Austria), is carved from lime wood and adorned with a regal robe and crown. This small but profound figure stands as a beacon of faith and unity for

countless pilgrims.

Mariazell Basilica is not just a historical landmark; it is a living, vibrant centre of Catholic devotion. The pilgrimage tradition thrives, with thousands journeying annually, particularly on major feast days such as the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary on 8th September. Pilgrims often arrive on foot, following well-worn trails like the Via Sacra from Vienna.

THE TITLE 'OUR LADY OF VICTORIES' EMERGED FROM STORIES OF INTERCESSION AND TRIUMPH, PARTICULARLY DURING MOMENTS OF NATIONAL STRUGGLE.



Farmer Boy

Farmer Boy by Laura Ingalls Wilder is the companion book to *Little House on the Prairie* series, written in her signature heart-warming style. While young Laura was exploring western America in search of a home, her future husband, Almanzo, was living a dramatically different life on his family's farm in New York State. This narration of his childhood adventures and experiences holds a charm that captivates the hearts of all children.

Life for nine-year-old Almanzo at home alongside Father, Mother, big brother Royal, and big sisters, Eliza Jane and Alice never holds a dull moment. Father has one of the best farms in that part of the country, which he cares for attentively. He also teaches Almanzo and Royal how to look after the livestock and tend to the crops. Mother is a busy and gentle person who 'always flew about... [and] never sat down in the daytime,' always busy baking, cleaning, or cooking. Eliza Jane is, to quote Almanzo, 'bossy'. However, under a tough exterior, she is a kind and tender-hearted sister who loves to help around the house. Alice is Almanzo's chosen playmate and best friend in the Wilder household.

The whole family works together in perfect harmony every day. While the men of the household do the chores and take care of the

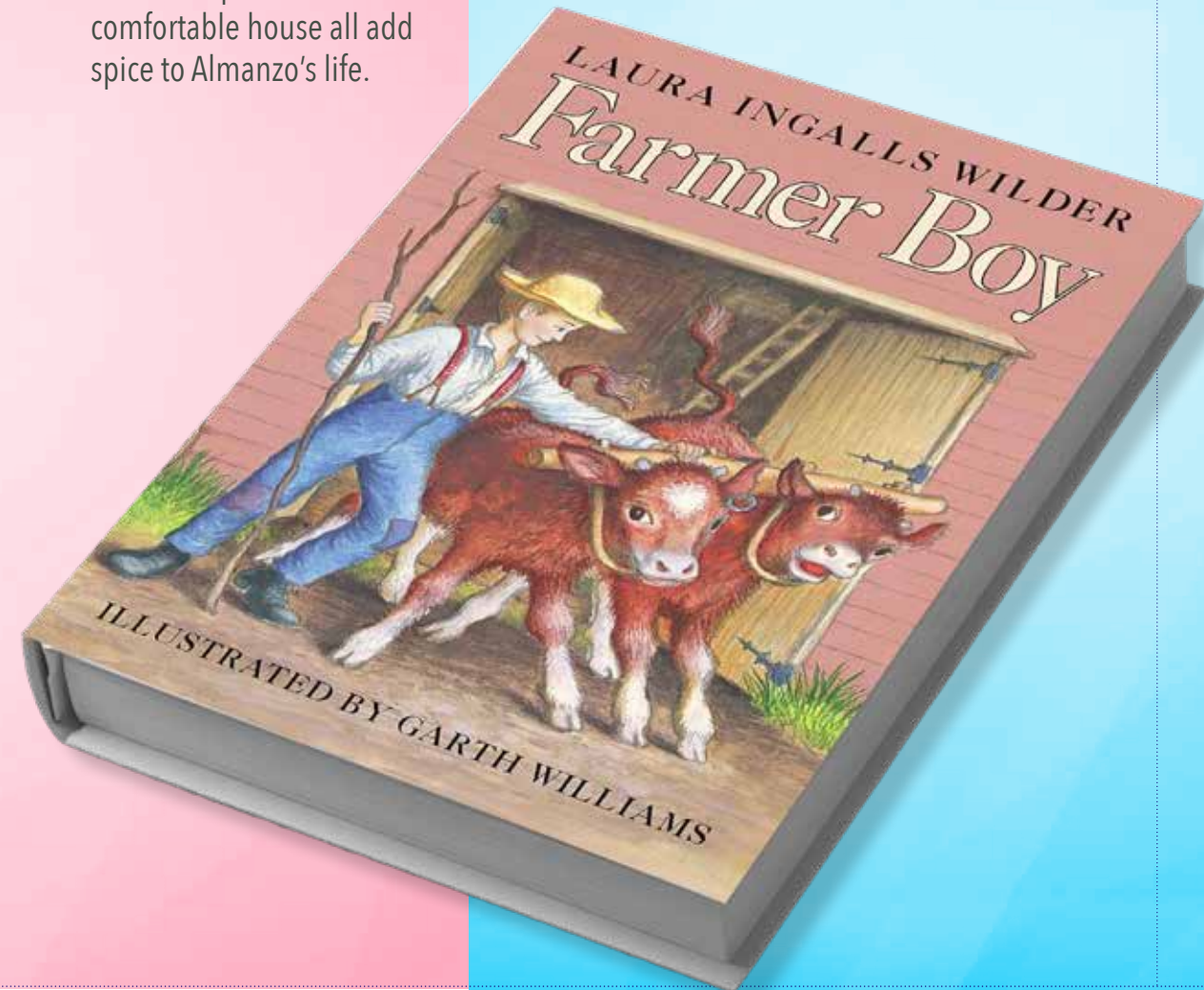
- ANNA-CLAIRE ANTHRAPER » 12 YRS

livestock, Mother and the girls bake, clean and set a wonderful table covered with delicious things to eat. These are narrated with such lifelike detail that one can almost smell the aroma of the mouth-watering food wafting through the open door of the kitchen. On tiring days, when work is finished, Almanzo patronises the well-stocked pantry and kitchen, hoping for some titbits before the sumptuous supper is set before him.

Each day in the Wilder household has its own unique rhythm which works in perfect harmony with the seasons. During spring and summer, the children work out in the fields, go berrying, or sort out vegetables. During the cold winter months they go to school as there

are no 'more important' things to do. Yet, there is a simple joy and pleasure in each of these activities, making them anything but monotonous. Sleigh rides in the winter, berry harvesting in the spring, trips to town during the warm summers, and cosy autumns spent in their comfortable house all add spice to Almanzo's life.

Even though her husband's childhood is very different from hers, Wilder manages to portray it vividly in front of our eyes. Filled with heartfelt experiences, *Farmer Boy* is perfect for all ages to read, capturing the hearts of young and older readers alike.



THE BOY JESUS AT THE TEMPLE

(LUKE 2:41-52)

Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. When Jesus was twelve-years-old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom.

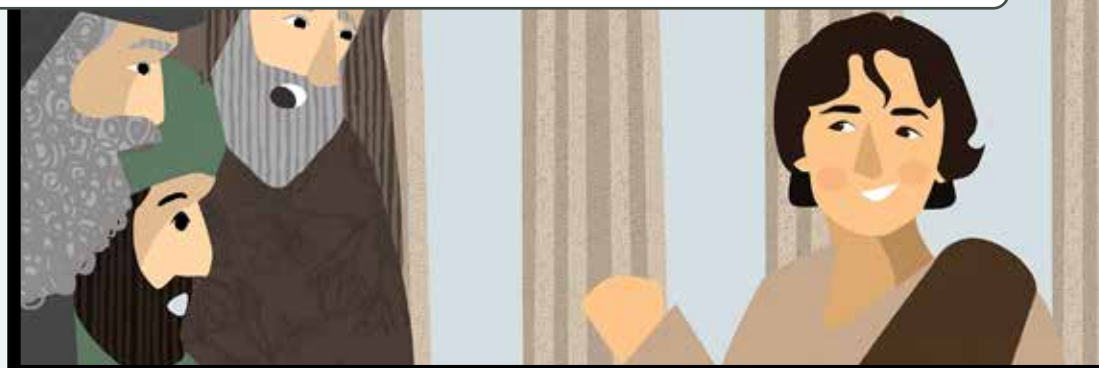


After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it.

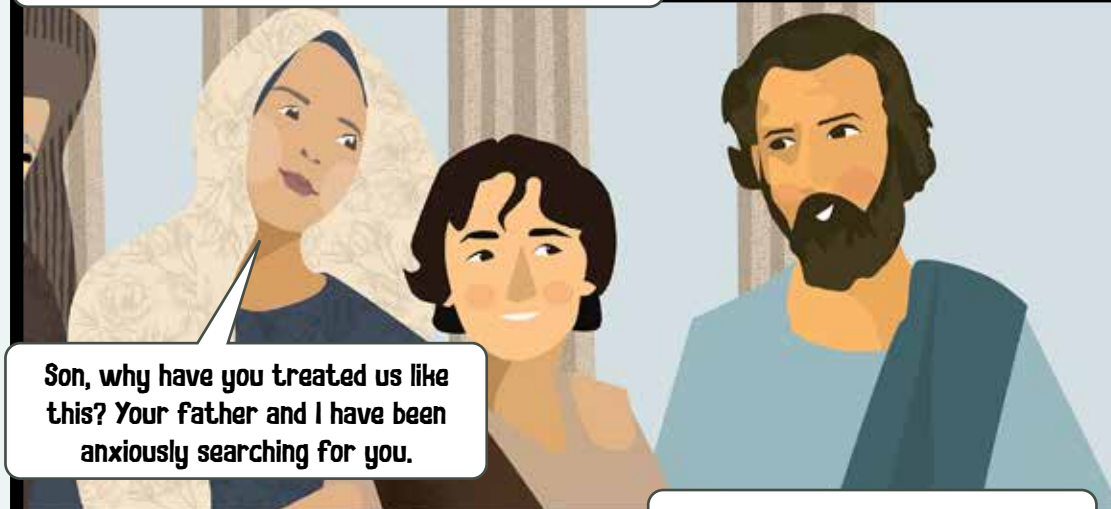
Thinking Jesus was in their company, they travelled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends.



When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers.



When his parents saw him, they were astonished.



Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you.

Why were you searching for me? Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?

Then Jesus went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart.



But they did not understand what he was saying to them.



Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.



STORY: SR. SUMA THOMAS CSM ILLUSTRATIONS: SOOSANNA JAXON



Wise & Innocent

-FR ROSAN ROY SJ

When Jesus talked about being wise, He often paired it with being innocent. One day, as He sent His disciples to share God's love, Jesus said, *I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. So be as wise as snakes and as gentle as doves* (Matthew 10:16). What did Jesus mean? Let's explore.

WISDOM IN NATURE

Have you ever noticed how trees know when to grow leaves or how birds build perfect nests for their babies? Flowers bloom at the right time, and even our bodies heal cuts and bruises without us doing anything. This is God's wisdom at work. We all possess this kind of wisdom too. It is part of God's design and makes

us innocent, trusting in His care and guidance. People who live close to nature often show this wisdom by living simply, like doves, trusting in God's creation to guide them. They understand how to use what they have to live peacefully. As the Bible says, *The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord* (Psalm 33:5).

WISDOM IN US

God gave us incredible brains to think and solve problems. Thanks to this 'brainy' wisdom, we've invented things like cars to travel faster, medicine to heal better, and phones to connect with people far away. Jesus called this kind of cleverness 'wise as snakes.' This 'brainy brain' can take any direction. It can work for the welfare of the whole universe or cause destruction. The choice is ours. God wants us to choose the first one. That is prudence – making wise choices that lead to good. As the Bible says, *Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it* (Psalm 34:14).

JESUS' INVITATION

Jesus wants us to be both wise and innocent in our lives. Like a dove, we should stay pure and trust in God's care. Like a snake, we should think carefully and make good choices. By building our lives on faith, we can use the wisdom God gave us to spread peace and kindness in the world, staying strong even when things are tough. Let's honour God by being both wise and innocent, showing His love and guidance in everything we do.



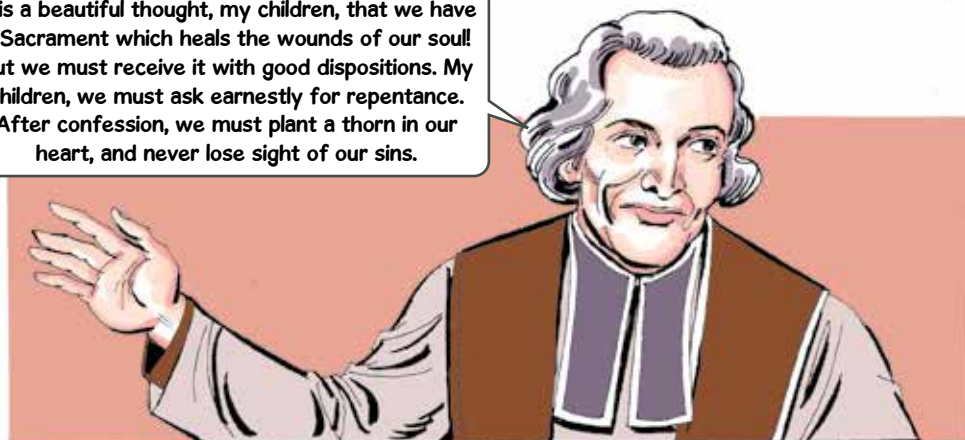
St John Vianney

Part 3

Fr John Vianney had a special grace for confession. His parishioners felt the joy of God's forgiveness and of conversion. He listened, understood, read their minds, prompted repentance and comforted them. He spent eleven to twelve hours each day working to reconcile people with God. In the summer months, he often worked sixteen hour days and refused to retire.



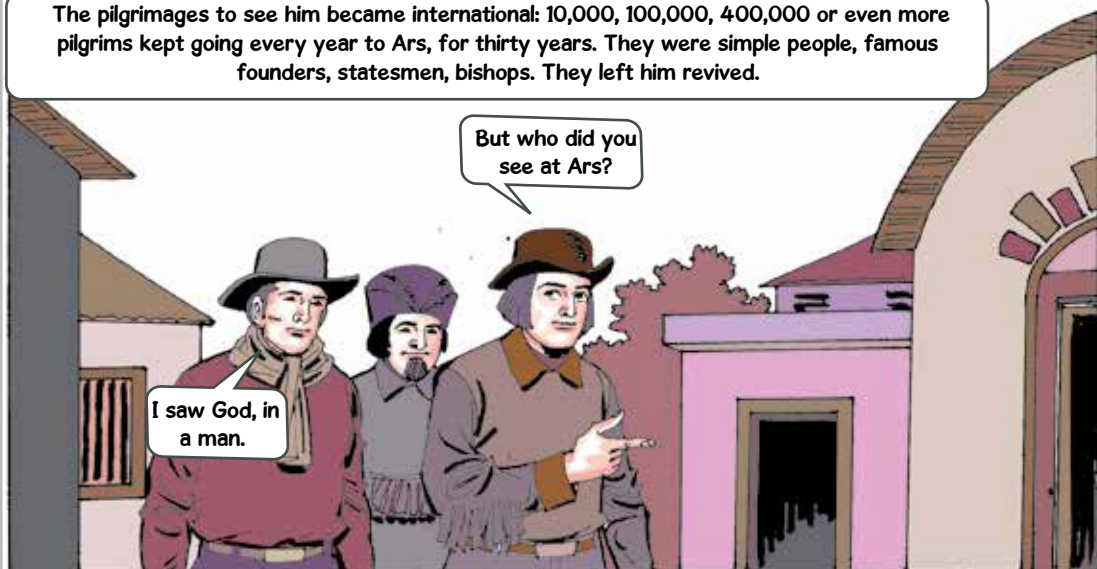
It is a beautiful thought, my children, that we have a Sacrament which heals the wounds of our soul! But we must receive it with good dispositions. My children, we must ask earnestly for repentance. After confession, we must plant a thorn in our heart, and never lose sight of our sins.



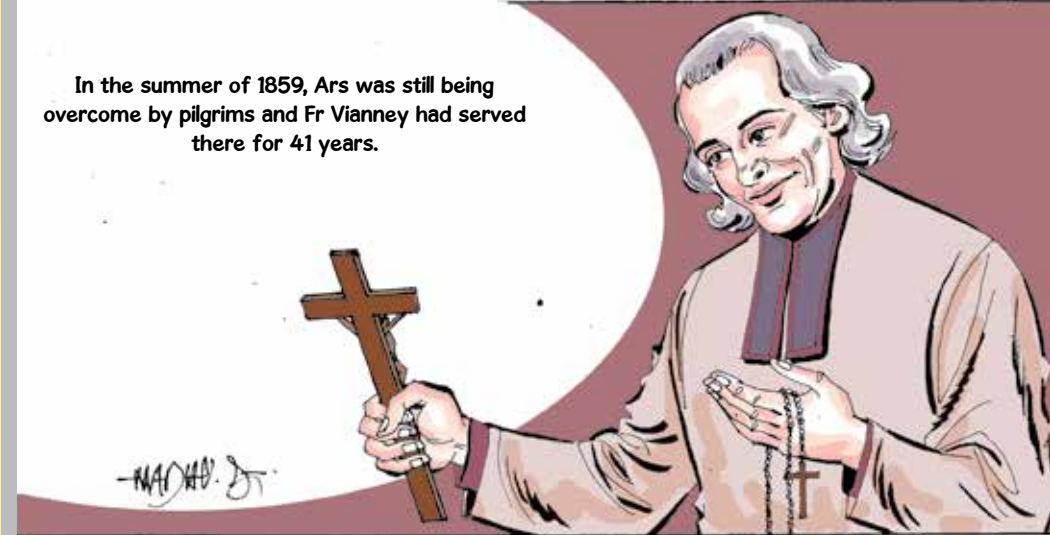
The pilgrimages to see him became international: 10,000, 100,000, 400,000 or even more pilgrims kept going every year to Ars, for thirty years. They were simple people, famous founders, statesmen, bishops. They left him revived.

But who did you see at Ars?

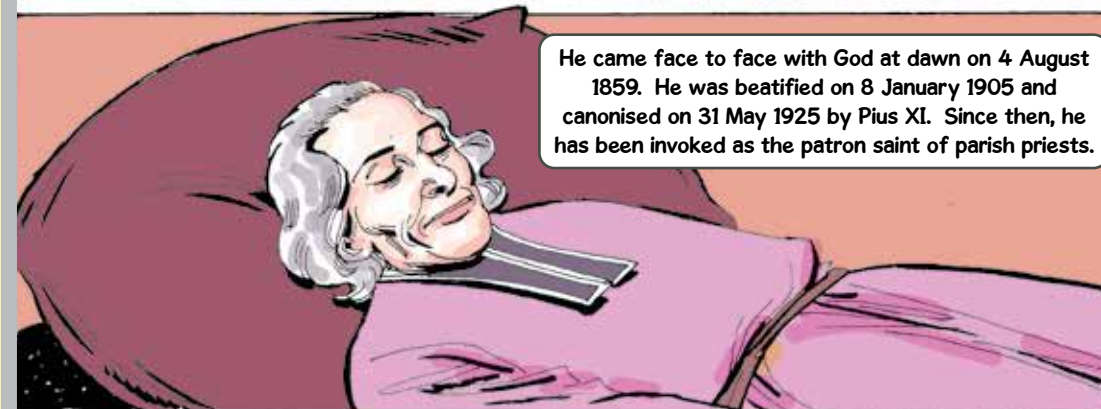
I saw God, in a man.



In the summer of 1859, Ars was still being overcome by pilgrims and Fr Vianney had served there for 41 years.



He came face to face with God at dawn on 4 August 1859. He was beatified on 8 January 1905 and canonised on 31 May 1925 by Pius XI. Since then, he has been invoked as the patron saint of parish priests.



Prayer of St John Vianney

I love You, O my God, and my only desire is to love You until the last breath of my life.
I love You, O my infinitely lovable God, and I would rather die loving You, than live without loving You.
I love You, Lord and the only grace I ask is to love You eternally...
My God, if my tongue cannot say in every moment that I love You, I want my heart to repeat it to You as often as I draw breath.



STORY: STEFFI SIBY ILLUSTRATIONS: MADHU S

And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another,
as God in Christ has forgiven you.
(Ephesians 4:32)

When I Chose Guilt Instead of Honesty

- JOAN JERO D'CRUZ » 16 YRS

Today, I woke up feeling guilty about yesterday. I had gone out with my friends and bought snacks with the money Dad gave me for school – without asking. I knew it was wrong, but I thought it wouldn't matter. It mattered.

When it was time for church today, Mom and Dad called me but I didn't want to go. I felt so ashamed. Instead of explaining, I snapped at them. 'Jack, it's time to get ready,' Mom said gently.

'I'm not going!' I shouted. 'Excuse me?' Dad's voice was firm, but I didn't care.

'I said I'm not going! Leave me alone!' I yelled as I stormed upstairs and slammed my door. After a few minutes, there was a knock on my door. 'Jack, can I come in?' Dad asked calmly.

'Whatever,' I muttered, still lying on my bed, facing the wall.

He walked in and sat on the edge of the bed. 'What's going on, buddy?' He asked. 'Nothing,' I said, my voice barely above a whisper.

'It doesn't seem like nothing,' he said. 'You've been upset all morning. Did

something happen?'

I hesitated but finally blurted, 'I took the money you gave me for school and spent it on snacks yesterday. I didn't ask, and now I feel terrible!'

Dad was quiet for a moment before saying, 'Thank you for telling me the truth. That was brave, Jack. I looked at him, surprised. 'Aren't you mad?'

'Not mad,' he said. 'Disappointed that you didn't ask first, but more importantly, I want you to understand it's okay to make mistakes – as long as you learn from them.'

He then added, 'The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love' (Psalms 103:8). 'You're forgiven, Jack. Both by God and by me. But next time, just ask, okay?'

I nodded, tears stinging my eyes. 'I'm sorry, Dad.'

'I know you are,' he said, giving me a hug.

I still feel bad, but Dad's words helped. I know I'm loved, and next time, I'll do better.



VERSE-IVE WRITING

The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger,
abounding in love. (Psalm 103:8)

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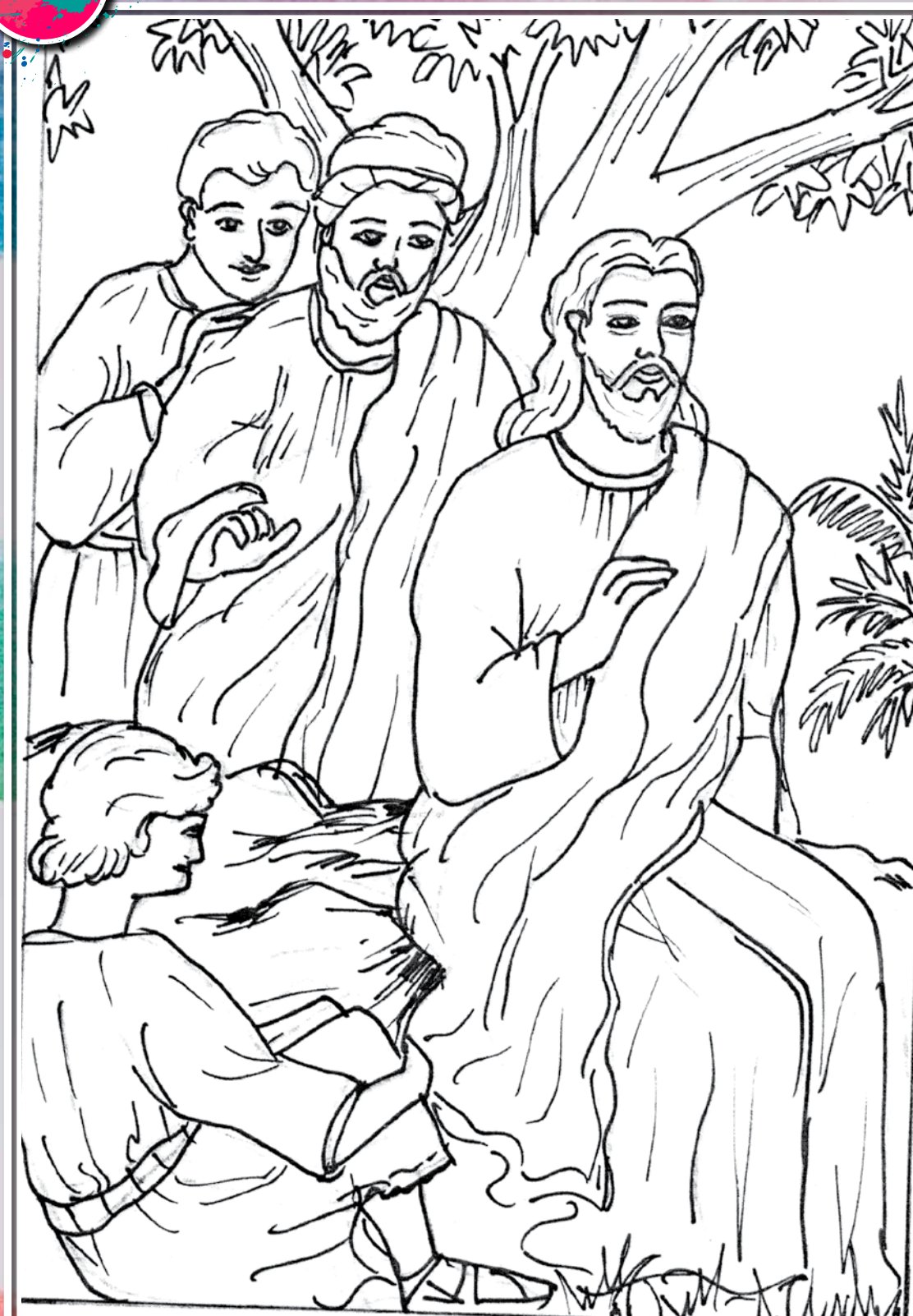
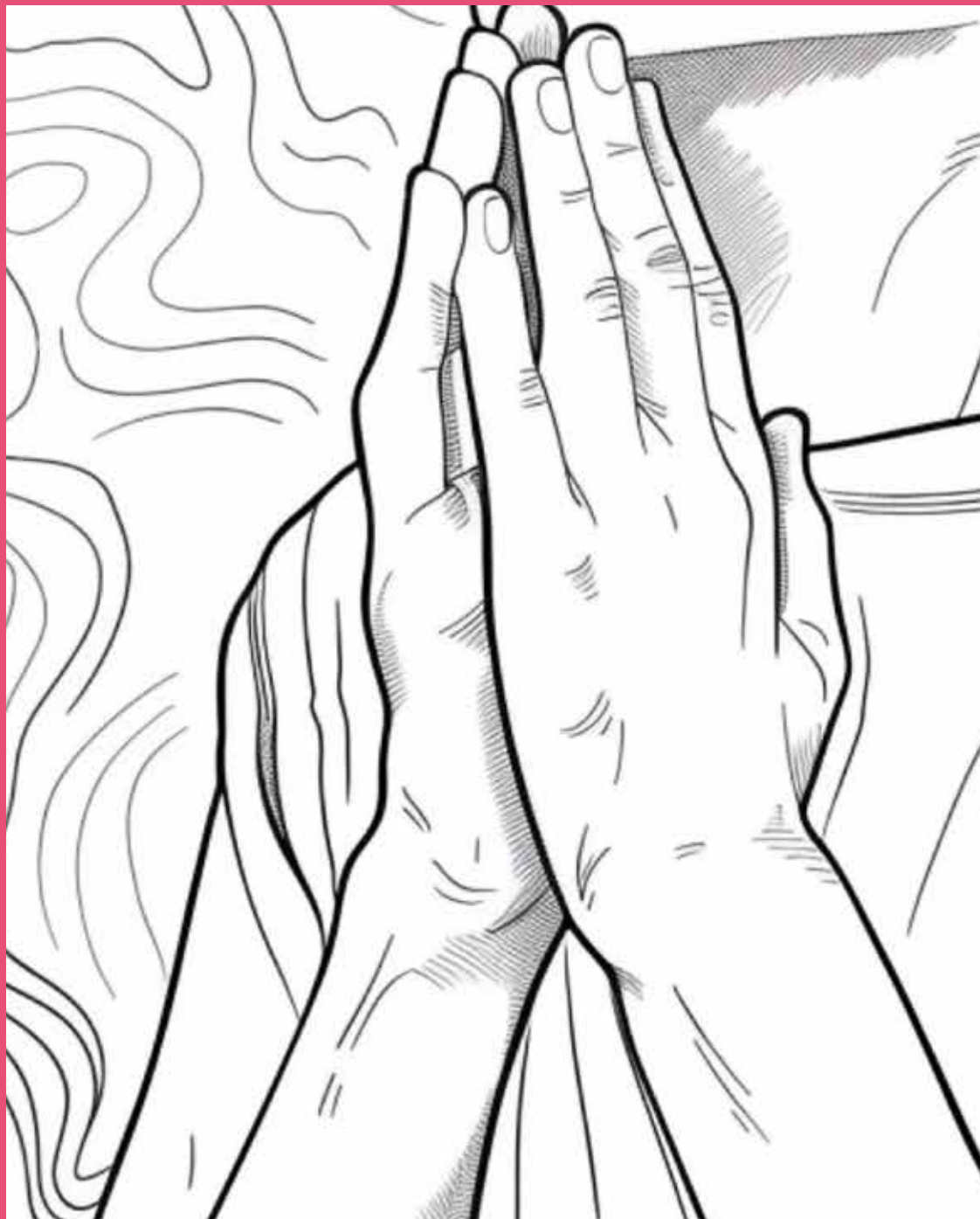
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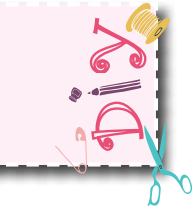
The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.

The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.

Colour. Arrange. Frame (Part 3)

In this section, a picture is divided into 4 parts, one for each issue. Children can colour each part, and when the picture is complete it can be glued together and framed.





SAINTS OF FEBRUARY

Colour, Cut out and
Pray!



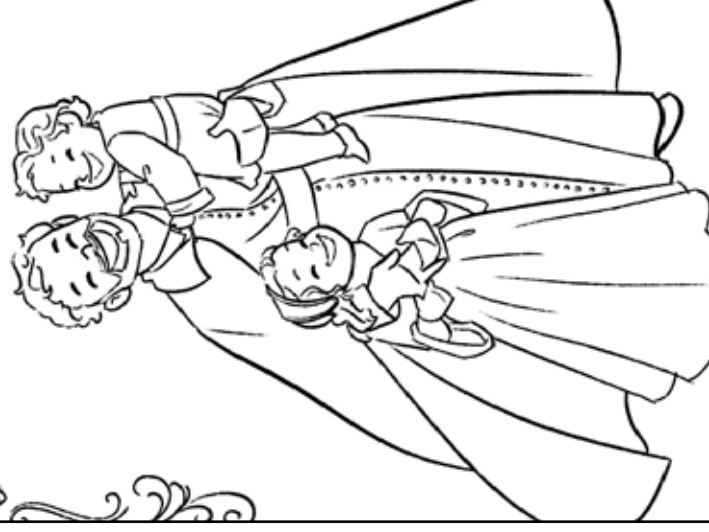
St John de Britto



Feast: 4 February

**Dear St John de Britto,
give us your zeal to bring
many to Christ.**

St Jerome Emiliani



Feast: 8 February

**Dear St Jerome Emiliani,
help me to be 'a lay person
who inspires lay people.'**

**St Josephine
Bakhita**



Feast: 8 February

**Dear St Josephine Bakhita,
assist all those who are
trapped in slavery or are
held in captivity.**

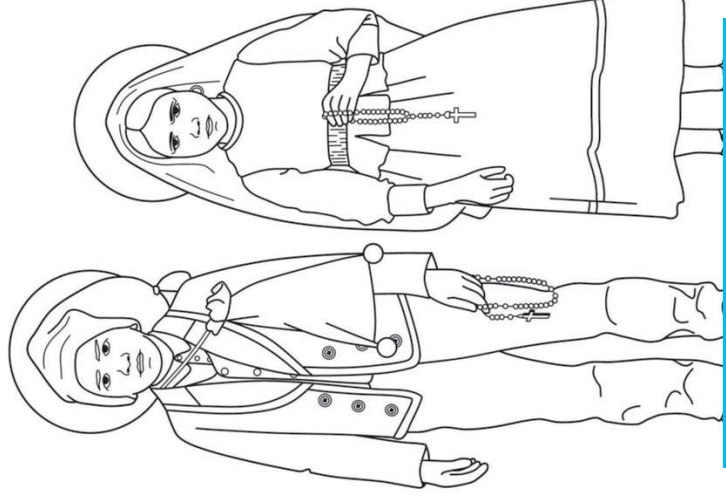
St Scholastica



Feast: 10 February

**Dear St Scholastica, pray for me to
find friends who will help me on my
spiritual journey. Help me to also be
such a friend to others.**

**Sts Francisco and
Jacinta Marto**



Feast 20 February

**Dear Sts Francisco and Jacinta,
help us to make our small
everyday crosses precious
offerings pleasing to God.**

'Learn and Colour'

**I, wisdom, have made prudence my dwelling,
and find out knowledge and discretion.**

Proverbs 8:12



MARIYAM JAISON » 8 YRS » MUSCAT, OMAN



LIDIYA MARIYA JOMON » 9 YRS » VAIKOM, INDIA



MARIA IMMACULATE » 12 YRS » HOSUR, INDIA



ISABEL MARIA JOSH »
12 YRS » HOUSTON, USA



HANNAH NICHOLSON »
11 YRS » TOMBALL, USA



OLIVIA THERESE GILS » 6 YRS » OXFORD, UK



Art and articles can be sent by email to kairosbuds@jycairosmedia.org. Please include full name, age, place/country.

Valentine's Day Card FROM JESUS

- SINU EMMANUEL



MATERIALS REQUIRED

- Coloured paper
- Sketch pens
- Scissors
- Glue

PROCEDURE

Step 1: Begin by cutting a piece of coloured paper into the shape of a cross.

Step 2: Fold the arms of the cross horizontally to create crease marks that will guide the rest of the process.



Step 3: Unfold the cross and turn the paper over so that the backside is facing up.

Step 4: Fold the paper diagonally from corner to corner, creating creases along both sides.

Step 5: Unfold the paper and then fold the arms of the cross inward along the diagonal creases. This will cause the arms of the cross to bend inward.

Step 6: On the cross, either draw a picture of Jesus, or draw Him on a separate piece of paper, cut it out, and glue it to the cross.

Step 7: Next, cut a colour paper to make a card, which can fit the cross inside.

Step 8: Glue only the top and bottom portions of the cross to the card, allowing the arms to remain raised in a 3D position.

Step 9: On the outside of the card, draw or decorate a picture of Jesus with the words 'I love you...'

Step 10: And inside of the card, decorate the cross by adding the phrase 'This much' along with the Bible verse Romans 5:8.



This was a whole lifetime of 30 years for Jesus. And we today, like most things, look at instant success and gratification

Prudence, wisdom, and experience are closely intertwined. Prudence is not merely the ability to make good decisions but the application of wisdom – acting in a way that aligns with God’s will. Wisdom, on the other hand, is the divine insight that helps us understand what is true, right, and lasting. It is through life’s experiences, both joyful and painful, that we gain wisdom. As the Bible teaches, *For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding* (Proverbs 2:6). However, not all experiences are successful or filled with joy – many are marked by failure and hardship. It’s here that the connection between failure, learning, and success becomes crucial.

and character, hope. These verses show that the struggles we face help build the character and wisdom needed to make prudent decisions in the future.

The Holy Spirit plays a vital role in guiding believers toward wisdom and prudence. In John 14:26, Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit will teach us all things and remind us of His teachings. It is through the Holy Spirit’s guidance that wisdom and prudence become more refined over time, especially as we face the challenges and experiences of life. The Spirit helps believers apply God’s wisdom in practical ways, enabling them to make decisions that reflect God’s will.

In essence, prudence is the fruit of wisdom and experience. It is the ability to make decisions that not only reflect knowledge but also align with God’s truth and will. As one

PRUDENCE: WITH PERSEVERANCE IS YOURS

- DR JOSEPH SEBASTIAN

The old saying ‘failure is the stepping stone to success’ suggests that everyone who fails will eventually succeed. But practically speaking, this is not always the case. The key difference is learning. Simply experiencing failure does not guarantee growth or success. For learning to occur, one must be open, humble, and reflective.

Experience plays a crucial role in shaping both wisdom and prudence. The experiences we go through, should help us better understand the consequences of our actions. Life is filled with challenges that teach us valuable lessons, and (IF) we reflect on these, we gain deeper wisdom. Hebrews 12:11 acknowledges that discipline, though painful at the time, ultimately leads to righteousness and peace. Similarly, the Apostle Paul writes in Romans 5:3-4 that *tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character;*

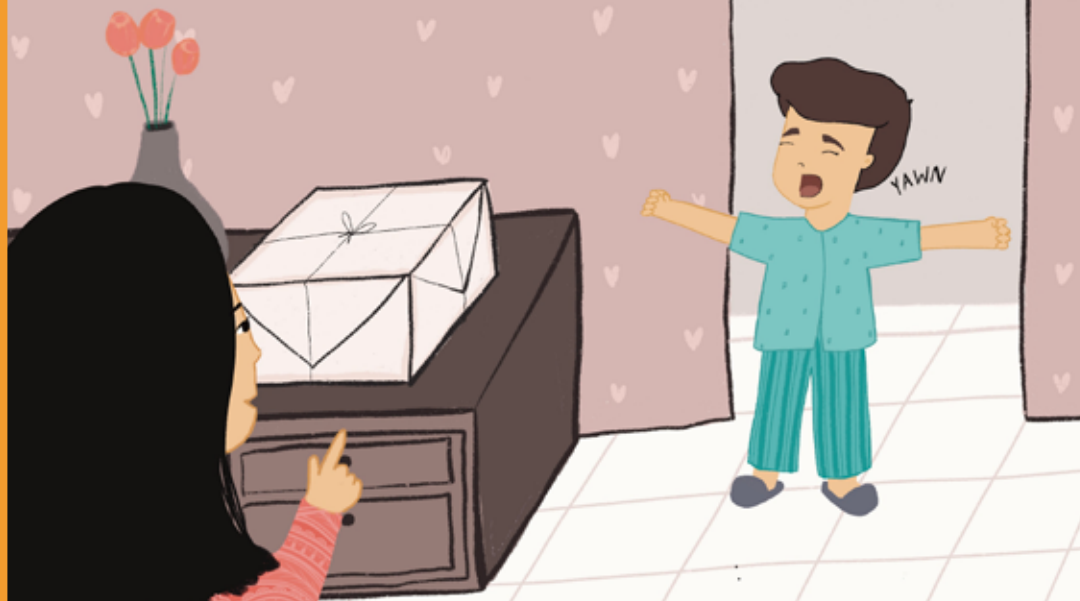
grows in wisdom through life experiences and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, they naturally become more prudent. This cycle of learning and application leads to spiritual maturity and a life that honours God. Proverbs 3:5-6 sums it up well: *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.*

Hence, prudence is more than just making the right choices. It involves cultivating wisdom through experiences, reflecting on God’s guidance, and applying that wisdom in daily life. Through this process, we grow in spiritual maturity and make decisions that reflect God’s will, and like Jesus grow in favour of God and men.

We all love to hear: ‘Wow! A wise person, so prudent in her/his actions.’ I wish we were all that. But rarely do we realise that Rome was not built in a day and so also prudence. Even in the life of Jesus we see in Luke 2: 51-52: *And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favour with God and man.*

Cakes and Sheep

'Kevin, we're leaving! Wake up!' said Mom aloud at Kevin's door. Together with Lizzy and the twins, Mom was leaving home to visit an old relative. Dad was away with the school chess team for a tournament. And so, on this Saturday morning, Kevin was going to be alone at home.



A few minutes later, a sleepy and dishevelled Kevin came down to the kitchen. 'Kevin, remember what I told you yesterday?' Mom asked him. 'About the cake?' 'Yes Mom... it has to be taken to Fr Joseph Mary. I remember.' Kevin said with a loud yawn. 'Good, and the one for you and Casey is in the oven.' Ever since Mom had started her baking business, Fr Joseph Mary made sure to order her cakes for meetings at the parish.

After everyone had left, Kevin finished his food and got busy with the chores he had to finish — which was cleaning his room and giving Buddy a bath. 'Hopefully,' he thought, 'by the time Casey gets here, I'll finish!'

Just as he dumped the last of his clothes for wash, Casey arrived. Both the boys had planned to watch the football match together that afternoon on TV. 'Hey Kev!' 'Hey Casey! Wanna help me give Buddy a bath?!'

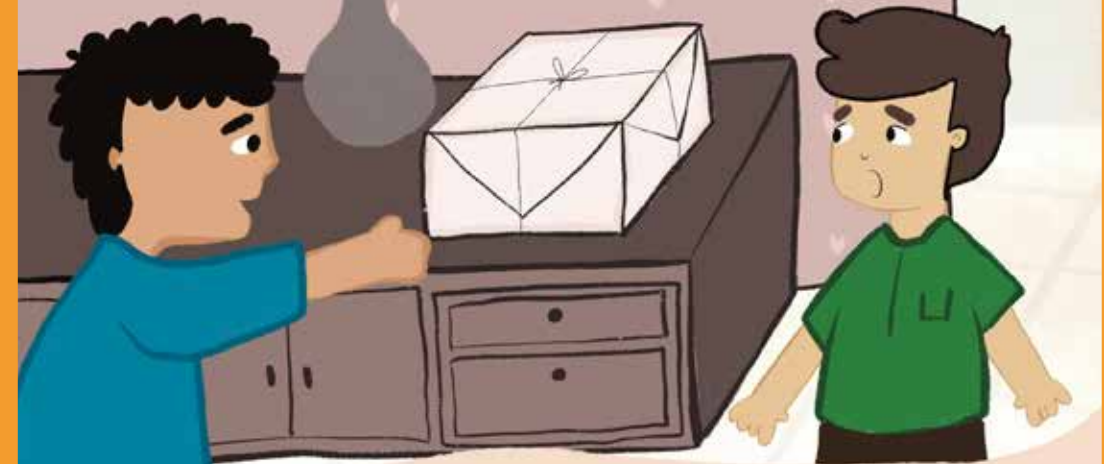


Meanwhile at the parish hall, Fr Joseph Mary was getting ready for the meeting. 'Hm... Annie said that Kevin would be bringing the cake,' Father said to himself looking at his watch. 'Fifteen minutes more for the meeting to begin.'



At that very moment, Kevin was completely absorbed in a one-on-one football match with Casey, having completely forgotten about the cake.

An hour or so later, when the boys wandered into the kitchen exhausted after their game, Casey remarked, 'Hey, is this cake for us?'



Fr Joseph Mary stood by the entrance and looked into the hall. Everyone were seated and talking in low voices, waiting for the meeting to begin. Father sighed and prayed, 'O Lord, we only have tea for everybody. You supply the rest!'

The sound of feet pounding the hallway made Fr Joseph Mary stop. 'That can't be anyone attending this meeting! I wonder...'

The doors swung open and in rushed Kevin, a huge box in his hand. 'Father...!' He gasped as Casey caught up to him. 'I'm so sorry! Hope I'm not late. I lost track of time...'

'My dear boy,' said Fr Joseph Mary smiling, 'I wondered if I would have to leave everyone here and come look for my "lost sheep"!'

STORY: TANIA ROSE JOSUN ILLUSTRATIONS: STEFFI ANDRAT FARIA

Q HOW DO I KNOW WHAT MY CHARISM IS?

ANS: First of all, let us be clear about charism.

'Charism' (Greek for charisma) is the word used in the New Testament for 'favours' or 'gratuitous gift'. Charisms, or spiritual gifts, are special abilities given to all Christians by the Holy Spirit to enable them both to represent Christ and to be a channel of God's goodness. Whether extraordinary or ordinary, all charisms ought to be exercised in the service of God.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines charisms as 'graces of the Holy Spirit which directly or indirectly benefit the Church, ordered as they are to her building up, to the good of men, and to the needs of the world' (Article 799). In everyday language, a charism can be understood as 'the gifts from God that allow a person or group to live out the Gospel in relation to the world around them.'

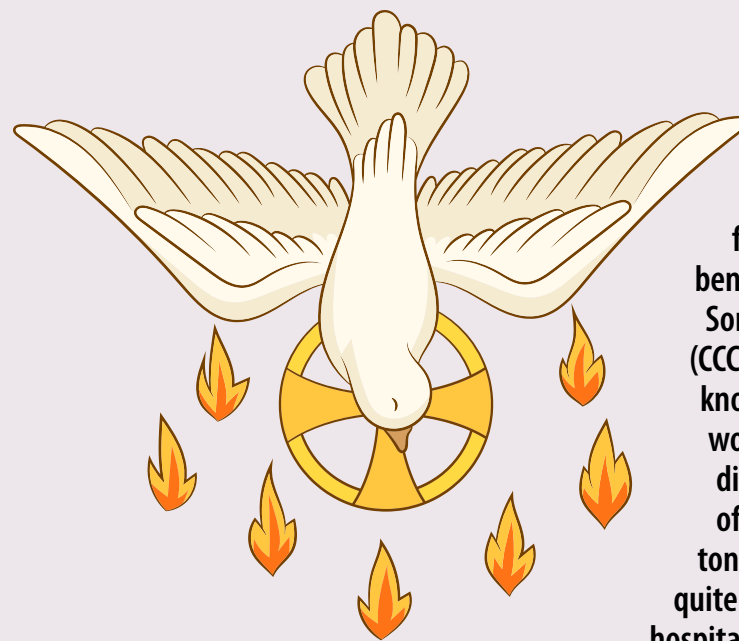
Just as at Pentecost, the source of all charisms is the Holy Spirit. What differs is the way it is expressed. The Gospel message is too full, too rich to be contained in any one charism. Like a mosaic or a quilt, which requires many diverse pieces to create a beautiful, unified image, the Church needs many ways of expressing the Gospel.

Catholic religious orders use the word 'charism' to describe their spiritual

orientation and special characteristics or values. For example, I belong to the MSFS congregation and our charism is the *renewal of Christian life, pioneering evangelisation and, education and formation of the young in the spirit of St Francis de Sales*. For the CMI congregation it would be to *share with others the fruits of contemplation*. The Capuchin Franciscans have a unique *charism and spirituality rooted in the life and example of St Francis of Assisi and the inspiration of the Capuchin Reform*.

A charism in general denotes any grace that God gifts to an individual or group to perform a specific mission in the Church and the world. The objective would be to meet a particular need in the Church and in society. This need is the root from which congregations are formed. It springs from the personal experience of their founder with Christ.

Now, personal charisms are gifts of the Holy Spirit given so that we can give them away. Charisms are gifts that pass through you and me – with our cooperation – and channel God's truth, beauty, provision, healing, and mercy to someone else. Charisms don't belong to us; they are for others. We are merely the stewards of these gifts. The manifestation of charisms through us is one important way that the presence and work of the Holy Spirit is revealed to us



in this life. Thus, we read: *To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good* (1 Corinthians 12:7).

Charisms emerge out of our lived relationship with Jesus Christ. They manifest in Christians who are trying to follow Jesus as a disciple so we can be channels of God's redemptive love and mercy for others. There are two ways in which charisms typically emerge, first, after we have gone through a spiritual awakening and our Catholic identity has grown into a personal relationship with Jesus and, second, when we meet the person or situation that needs the gift. These gifts only have one purpose: to serve the Kingdom and the purposes of God.

Charisms differ from natural talents in several important ways. Charisms are not 'in-born,' that is, inherited from our parents, but are given to us by the Holy Spirit, whom we received through Baptism and Confirmation. Secondly, charisms are supernaturally empowering. In other words, they enable us to have an effectiveness that surpasses

our natural, human abilities. Finally, charisms cannot be used for anything evil, it is always for the benefit of others.

Some charisms may seem 'extraordinary' (CCC 2003) (word of wisdom, word of knowledge, faith, gifts of healing, working of miracles, prophecy, distinguishing spirits, various kinds of tongues, and interpretation of tongues – 1 Corinthians 12) and others quite 'ordinary' (administration, service, hospitality, mercy, craftsmanship, music, writing, teaching, leadership, pastoring, helping, evangelism, etc.), but all charisms are empowered by God.

We need to find out and grow in our charisms. How? First and foremost, it is through our personal (prayer and) relationship with Jesus. We should know that these are gifts and not something we earn or are given as a reward or salary. Sometimes, when a need arises the Holy Spirit endows us with the gift needed for the time and situation, especially extraordinary ones. Other times, we know this when we find ourselves exceptionally good at exercising these gifts, we get successful and effective results and from the feedback of others validating it after we have used our gifts. We experience an inner peace, energy and joy when using the gift. It is also by practising the gifts that we grow in them. It is a journey with the Holy Spirit, always asking Him: what do You want me to do at this moment, for the Church and my neighbour.

Babylon

A prominent city in the Old Testament of the Bible, it is located in modern-day Iraq.

The word 'Babylon' is referenced 280 times in the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation.

The Bible presents Babylon as a symbol of earthly power that ultimately crumbles before God. It represents human pride and the dangers of defying God. Across the Bible, Babylon serves as a cautionary tale and a reminder of God's ultimate sovereignty.

Babylon is a symbol of what happens when people forget about God and think they're in charge. It's a warning to us all to stay humble and remember that God is the true boss.

Babylon was referred to by diverse names in the Old Testament. Find them from the Bible:

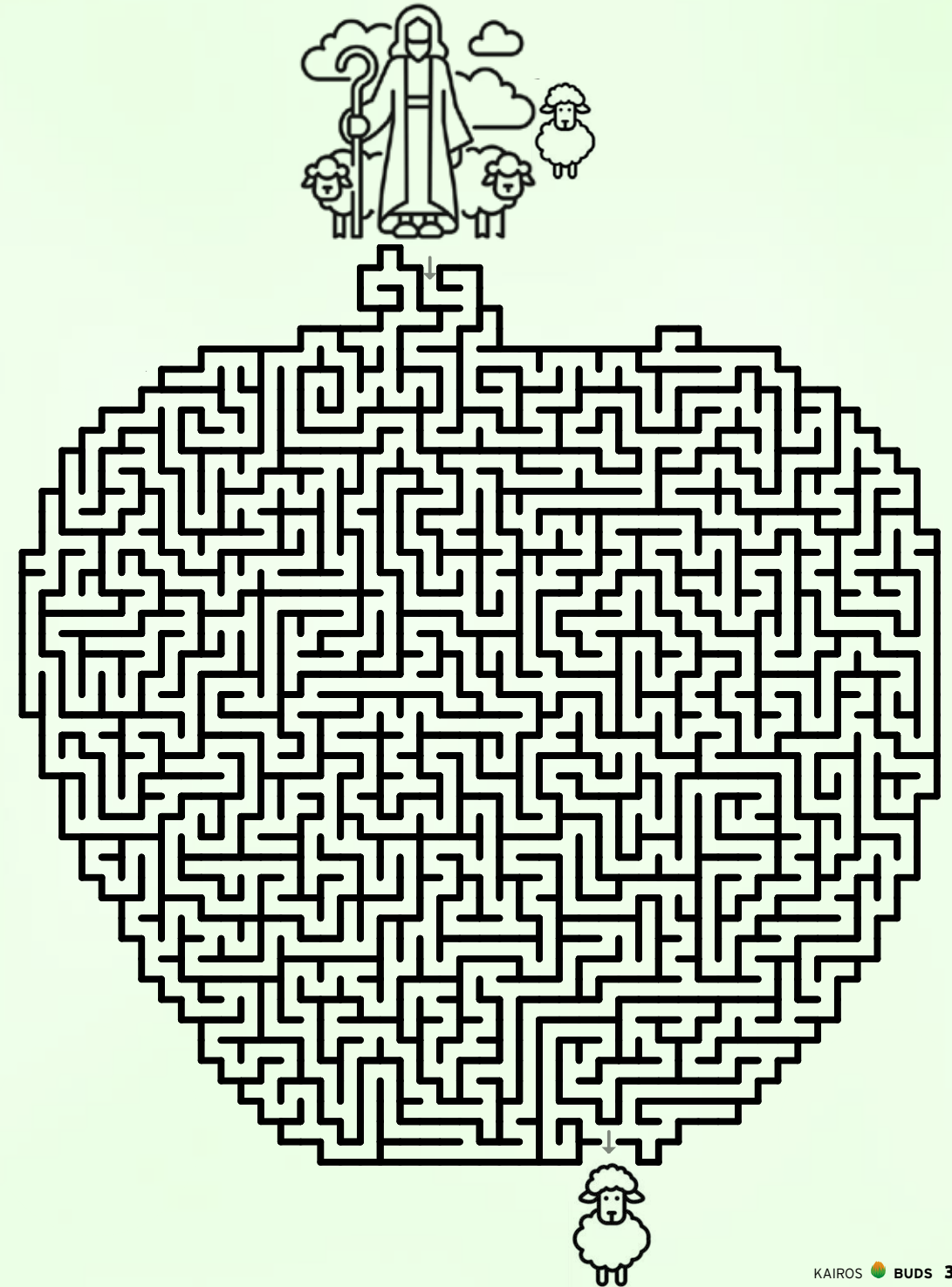
1. Ezekiel 12:13
2. Daniel 1:2; Zechariah 5:11
3. Isaiah 21:1, 9
4. Isaiah 47:5
5. Jeremiah 50:1, 21
6. Jeremiah 25:12, 26

Answers: 1. Land of the Chaldeans, 2. Land of Shinar, 3. Desert of the Sea, 4. Land of Merathaim, 5. Sheshach



THE LOST SHEEP MAZE

Help Jesus find the lost sheep.



THE SCHOOL TALENT SHOW

The annual talent show is a big event at school.

I can't wait to see the performances!

Seeing the others perform does not help Jessy at all.

I could never compete with that...

Wow!

Go Ian!

Jessy, however, begins to panic.

You've worked hard! Just remember why you love to play.

But I don't think I'm good enough...

Backstage, one of the performers, Jessy, is troubled with doubts.

What if I mess up? Everyone's so talented...

Noticing their friend's anxiety, Anna and Tina come over backstage.

Hey, Jessy! You look like you could use a pep talk.

You've got this! Remember, it's about sharing your passion.

Come on, let's practise together! You might surprise yourself.

Okay, just for a minute.

With her friends' encouragement, Jessy calms down.

It does feel good...

See? You've got talent! Just let it flow.

Just then, the next performer is announced: Jessy!

Next up, Jessy with an acoustic performance!

Oh no, it's my turn!

Jessy starts to play but misses the first note. The audience begins to murmur.

Just breathe. You can do this!

I can't do this!

You've got this Jessy! Keep going!

The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

The auditorium is suddenly cast in darkness as the power goes out.

Okay, here goes nothing...

Yay! Go Jessy!

What happened?!

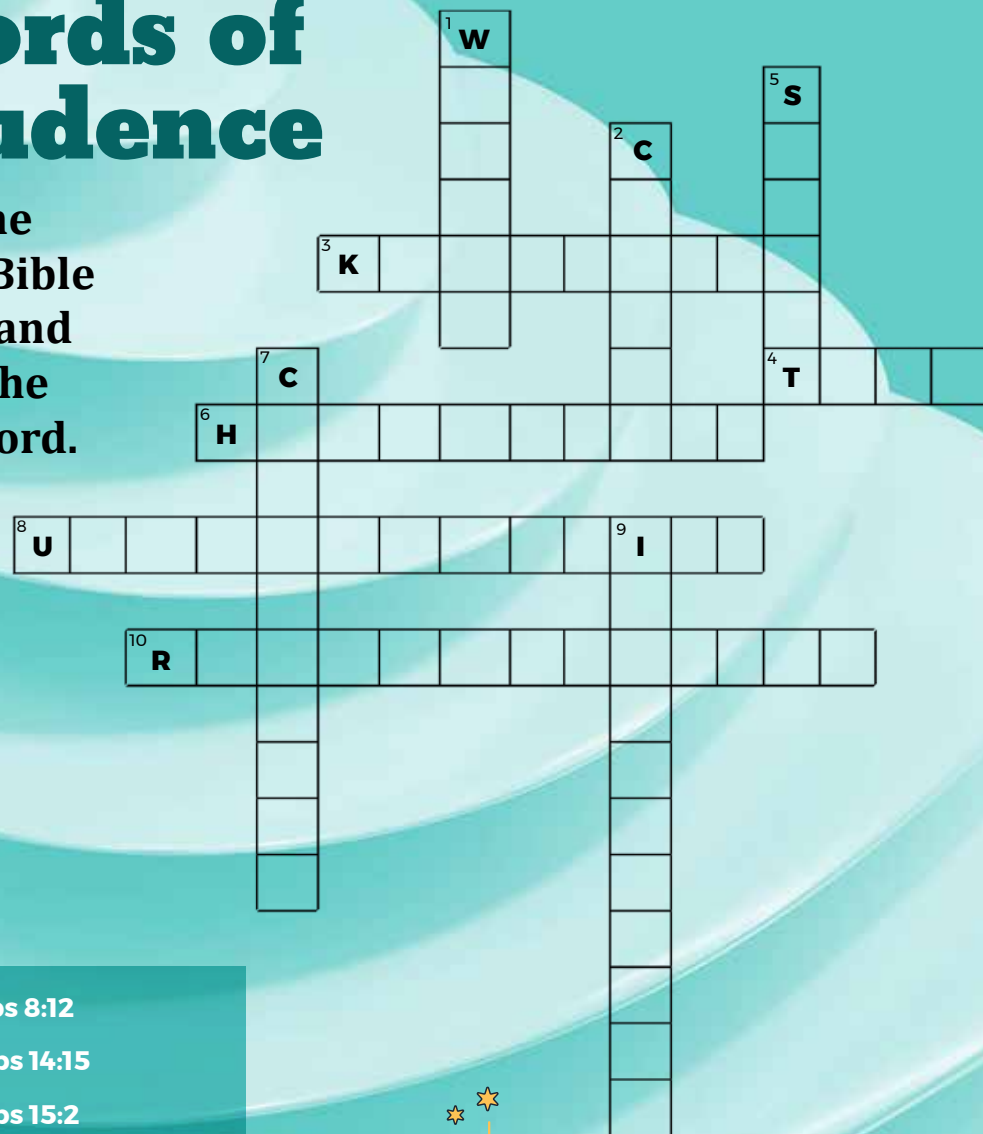
Stay calm! We'll figure this out!

(To be continued)

STORY: ANEESH SUNNY THOMAS ILLUSTRATIONS: SANISH DIVAKARAN

Words of Prudence

Read the below Bible verses and fill up the crossword.



1. Proverbs 8:12
2. Proverbs 14:15
3. Proverbs 15:2
4. 1 Thessalonians 5:21
5. Proverbs 17:28
6. John 14:26
7. Joshua 1:9
8. Proverbs 14:8
9. Proverbs 8:10
10. Proverbs 8:20



FUNNY WORDS!

A man walks into the confessional and says, **'Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. I blew up some railroad tracks.'**

The priest replies, **'You are forgiven, my son. Now go do the stations.'**

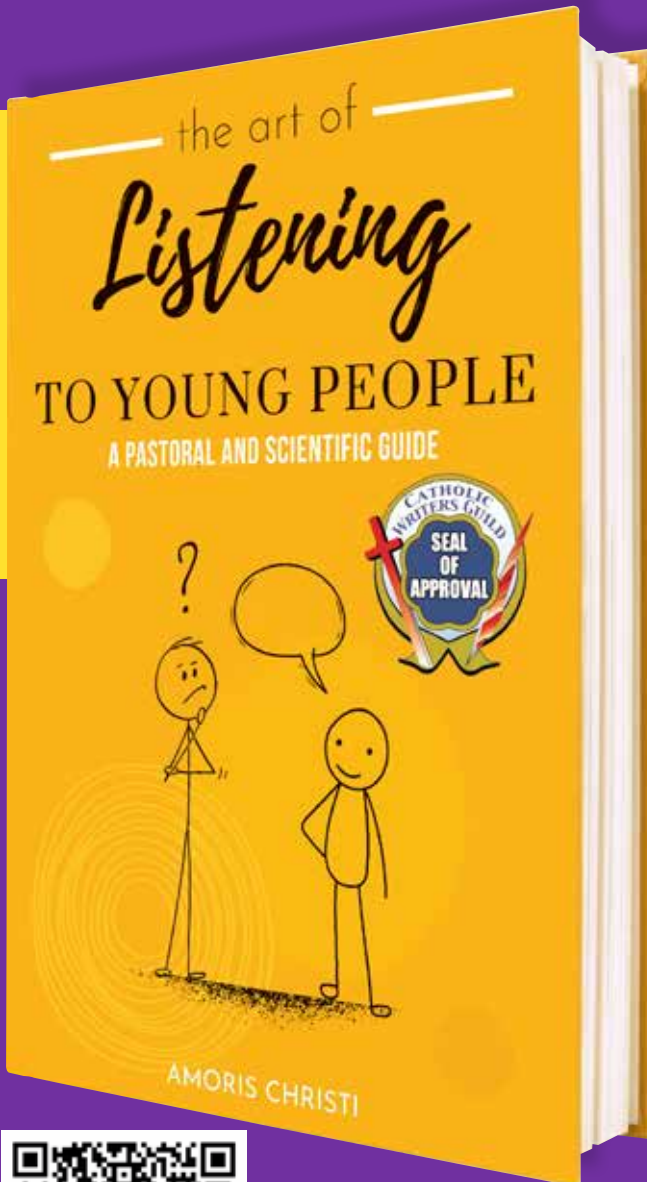


Why do we say amen instead of awoman?

Because we sing hymns instead of hers



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