

Good morning everyone!



Yesterday was the Fifth Sunday of Lent.

YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH

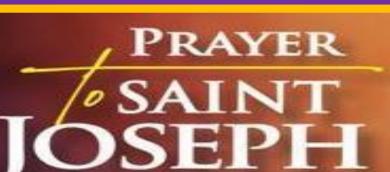
On Friday 19th March was the feast of St Joseph our patron saint.

Pope Francis declares 8th December 2020 - 8th December 2021 as "The Year of Saint Joseph."





Opening prayer



Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted His only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.

(Culled from Apostolic Letter Patris Corde of Pope Francis)





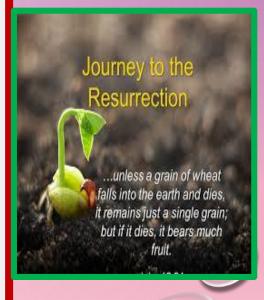
Welcome

Jesus today uses the image of a grain of wheat to talk about what is in store for him — death and resurrection.

He says that one single grain of wheat can produce a rich harvest.

Let's think some more about this today.





Gospgl: John 12:20-33

Some Greeks were among those who had gone to Jerusalem to worship during the festival. They went to Philip and said, "Sir, we want to see Jesus."

Philip went and told Andrew, and the two of them went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has now come for the Son of Man to receive great glory.

I am telling you the truth: a grain of wheat remains no more than a single grain unless it is dropped into the ground and dies.

If it does die, then it produces many grains.

Those who love their own life will lose it; those who hate their own life in this world will keep it for life eternal.

Whoever wants to serve me must follow me, so that my servant will be with me where I am.





Gospel: John 12:20-33



And my Father will honour anyone who serves me.

"Now my heart is troubled—and what shall I say? Shall I say, 'Father, do not let this hour come upon me'? But that is why I came—so that I might go through this hour of suffering.

Father, bring glory to your name!"

Then a voice spoke from heaven, "I have brought glory to it, and I will do so again."



The crowd standing there heard the voice, and some of them said it was thunder, while others said, "An angel spoke to him!"

But Jesus said to them, "It was not for my sake that this voice spoke, but for yours. Now is the time for this world to be judged; now the ruler of this world will be overthrown. When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to me." (In saying this he indicated the kind of death he

was going to suffer.)

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

All Response: PRAISE TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST

What do you remember from today's reading?



Jesus says that unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains a single grain. But if it dies then it will give a rich harvest.

What do you think Jesus means by that?

Jesus is using this image to explain that he must die on the cross so that he can rise again and so people will believe he is the Son of God.

What happens to a seed when you plant it?

The seed dies as it grows into a plant.



Wheat is an important thing to grow because it is used in lots of foods.

Can you name some foods that wheat is used in?

How about if I tell you that wheat is used to make flour?

What can you make with flour?

One single seed can grow lots of food.

Think about how tiny an apple seed is inside your apple, which you can plant and grow into an apple tree that will produce lots of other apples.

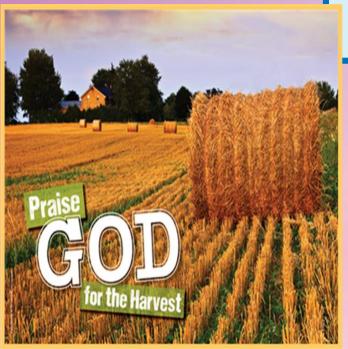
Can you think of some other foods that can be grown from a single seed?



You may not be very used to growing things, but about a quarter of all people in the world live from farming. For them, planting and growing seeds is a matter of life and death.

If their food doesn't grow well, their families will be hungry.

The people listening to Jesus would have known all about what that means, as many of them would have grown their own food.



An organisation called CAFOD helps farmers in many poor countries by giving them seeds to plant, for example, or helping them get a better water supply. CAFOD gives good advice on how to grow strong plants even when the weather is too dry - or too wet.







Our actions, even if we do just one little thing, can also grow into something big.

What will you do this week to make a difference to someone who needs help – even if you can't see them in person?

Talk to someone on the phone who is alone, or send a drawing?





Let us Pray



We believe in Jesus the Son of God who died and rose again and so we pray together:

We pray that Jesus Christ will fill us with His love and mercy and show us how to make a difference to the lives of our brothers and sisters in our school community.

Lord in your mercy...

All Response: Hear our prayers

We pray for the poorest people in our world: that the seeds they plant may give a rich harvest so that they have enough to eat.

Lord, in your mercy...

All Response: Hear our prayers

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may take steps to change our

own lives and the lives of our brothers and sisters around the world.

Lord, in your mercy...

All Response: Hear our prayers

THIS WEEK, I WANT YOU ALL TO THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU WILL DO THIS WEEK TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO SOMEONE WHO NEEDS HELP







