

Catholicism

Grade 7

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The National Anthem of Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka Matha

Apa Sri Lanka Namō Namō Namō Namō Matha

Sundara siri barinee, surendi athi sobamana Lanka

Dhanya dhanaya neka mal palaturu piri jaya bhoomiya ramya

Apa hata sepa siri setha sadana jeewanaye matha

Piliganu mena apa bhakthi pooja Namō Namō Matha

Apa Sri Lanka Namō Namō Namō Namō Matha

Oba we apa vidya

Obamaya apa sathya

Oba we apa shakthi

Apa hada thula bhakthi

Oba apa aloke

Apaga anuprane

Oba apa jeevana we

Apa mukthiya oba we

Nava jeewana demine, nithina apa pubudukaran matha

Gnana veerya vadawamina regena yanu mana jaya bhoomi kara

Eka mavakage daru kela bevina

Yamu yamu vee nopama

Prema vada sema bheda durerada

Namō, Namō Matha

Apa Sri Lanka Namō Namō Namō Namō Matha

Foreword

With the continuous advancement of the world, the education sector too is transformed. Therefore, if we require the creation of a student community who could confront the future challenges successfully, our learning teaching process must constantly utilize effective approaches. It is our responsibility to disseminate the knowledge of the new world while assisting to create global citizens with good values. Our department is actively engaged in producing learning tools with the great aim of contributing to enlighten the minds of the children of the country.

A textbook is a repository of knowledge. At times, it takes us to a world of entertainment while developing our critical thinking faculties. It promotes our hidden potentials. In the coming years, the memories related to these textbooks will bring you happiness. While making the maximum use of this valuable learning tool, you must essentially access other useful knowledge spaces too. I wish that you would gain the ability to enlighten the future as citizens with knowledge and values by using this textbook.

I would like to bestow my sincere thanks on the panels of writers, editors and reviewers as well as on the staff of the Educational Publications Department for the contribution made on this endeavor.

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26.05.2020

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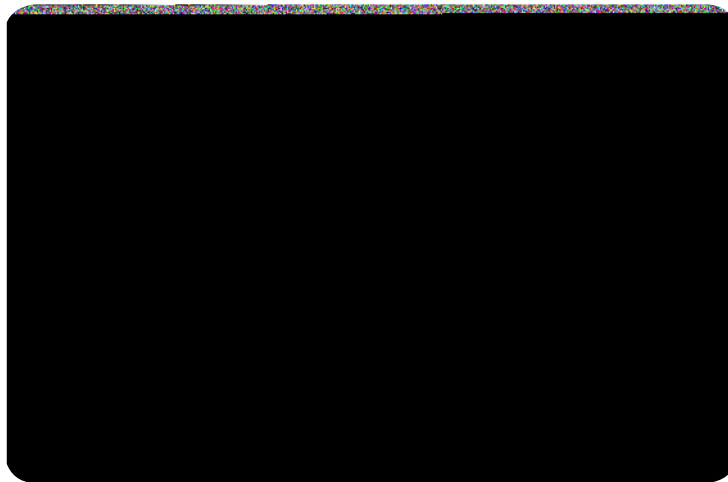
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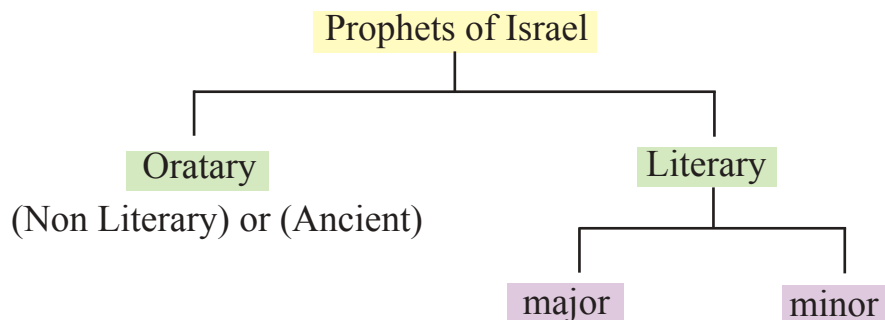
The Prophets of Israel

By holding a mirror to the sunlight it can be reflected on to a specific place. Mirror reflects the rays of the sun which falls on it. In the Old Testament there was a group of people who did the same role which was done by the mirror. They are “prophets of Israel”. When they receive the message of God, they proclaimed it to the people of Israel. The picture given below depicts it.



picture 1.1 - The role of a prophet

The word for prophet in Hebrew is “Nabi” and the Greek word is “prophetes”. Those words give the meaning "of the one who proclaims on behalf of God".



There are two categories of prophets in the Old Testament.

1. Oratary Prophets : In the Old Testament, they do not have books or writings under their names, but their words and deeds are found in the historical books like I and II Samuel and I and II Kings. Such oratary prophets' names are Nathan, Elijah and Elisha.
2. Literary Prophets : There are writings or books under their names in the Old Testament. These prophets can be divided into two groups.
 - i. Major prophets
 - ii. Minor prophets

i. There are 3 Major Prophets

- ★ Isaiah
- ★ Jeramiah
- ★ Ezekiel

ii. There are 12 Minor Prophets

- | | |
|-----------|-------------|
| ★ Hosea | ★ Nahum |
| ★ Joel | ★ Habakkuk |
| ★ Amos | ★ Zephaniah |
| ★ Obadiah | ★ Haggai |
| ★ Jonah | ★ Zechariah |
| ★ Mica | ★ Malachi |

The prophet who speaks on behalf of God must first listen to the voice of God. He should open himself to the divine voice to understand the message which he has to proclaim to the people.

In today's society, the Word of God (Holy Scripture) is the most effective media which brings the divine voice to us. As same as that, different people are helping us to identify the divine voice; they are



Priests, Religious, Parents, and teachers. Even the signs of the time are also helpful to us to find the divine voice.

A Prophet who speaks on behalf of God is bound with responsibility to speak what God wants, but not what he wants. Therefore prophet receives a vocation to hand over the God's plan to people.

Through Baptism, all of us had been anointed to be the prophets in the Church. It is very difficult to witness to this prophetic call, but we can be strengthened and be active with the power of God. According to that the responsibilities mentioned below were given us to follow.

- ★ Act truthfully
- ★ Bring back all those who are doing wrong into the correct path
- ★ Challenge against those who are trying to hide the truth
- ★ Guide others to do the correct thing
- ★ Proclaim the message of the Bible to others

We should dedicate ourselves to be the prophets of the era, and try to make the God's plan, a reality in the society. By guiding, correcting, challenging and witnessing, we can be true prophets in the society.

Activity

1. Define the word “Prophet”.
2. Write the classification of the Old Testament Prophets.
3. Mention three tasks that you can do as a prophets.



For Life

Be a prophet of the era through your word, deed and examples.

There were some people who witnessed to the truth and spoke on behalf of God in the Old Testament. These people were named as Prophets. Out of all the Prophets, Oratary Prophets performed their task very effectively.

1. Prophet Nathan
2. Prophet Elijah
3. Prophet Elisha

Prophet Nathan



picture 2.1 - Prophet Nathan

When king David had an immoral behaviour with Bethsheba who was the wife of Uriah, Prophet Nathan narrated a parable and explained about the sin that king David did. Because of Prophet Nathan, king David was able to understand his sinfulness and repented.

By showing king David's sinfulness Prophet Nathan was able to bring

him to the correct path tactfully. As students we should also act like Prophet Nathan, if we see or find someone is doing a wrong thing. We should explain and bring that person into the correct path, without hurting him or her.

Prophet Elijah

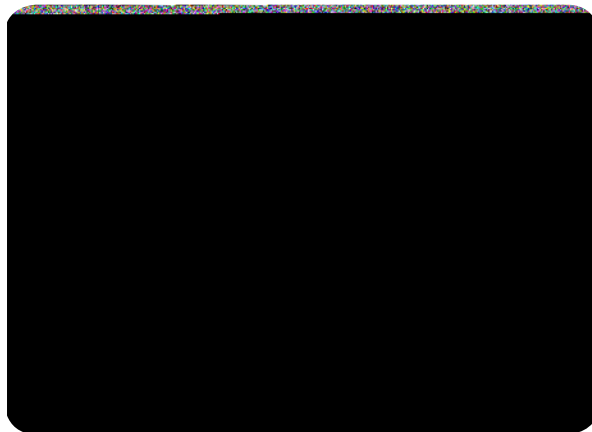


picture 2.2 - Prophet Elijah

During a season of drought, with a command of God, Elijah went and stayed by the brook of Cherith. Ravens brought him bread and meat. Thereafter he went to a house of a widow, who lived in a town of Zarephath. In her house, there was only a handful of flour in a bowl and a drop of olive oil in a jar. Because of her hospitality and obedience to Elijah, the bowl of flour and the jar of oil did not run out until the drought ended.

When at times we become helpless, we will be protected through the blessings and graces of God. The care we get is called “Divine Providence.” That is the same Divine Providence Elijah had experienced during the drought.

The Sacrifice on Mount Carmel

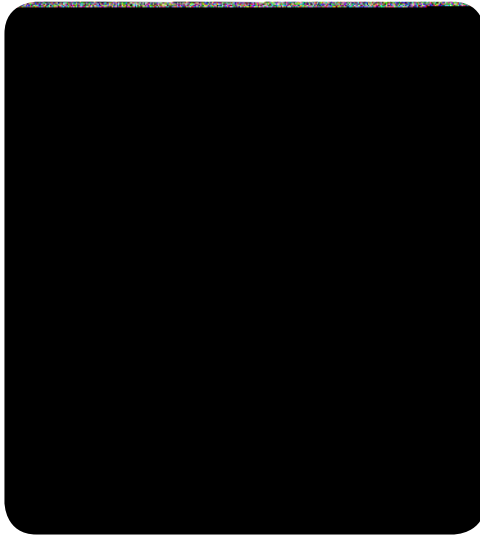


picture 2.3 - The sacrifice on Mount Carmel

On Mount Carmel Elijah and the Prophets of Baal, prepared two sacrifices to offer their Gods. They believed that the true God, will send fire from above burn the sacrifice and prove that God accepts the sacrifice. Prophets of Baal prayed loud and did their other rituals, their sacrifice was not burnt by Baal. Elijah who poured water on and around the Sacrifice prayed to the Lord. His sacrifice was accepted and burnt into ashes. Through this incident, it proved who the true God is.

As soon as they finished their sacrifices on Mount Carmel, it ended the drought and heavy rain began to fall. God protects those who believes in Him at the same time He helps them when they are in need. Therefore, we too should keep our faith in God and pray for Divine Providence.

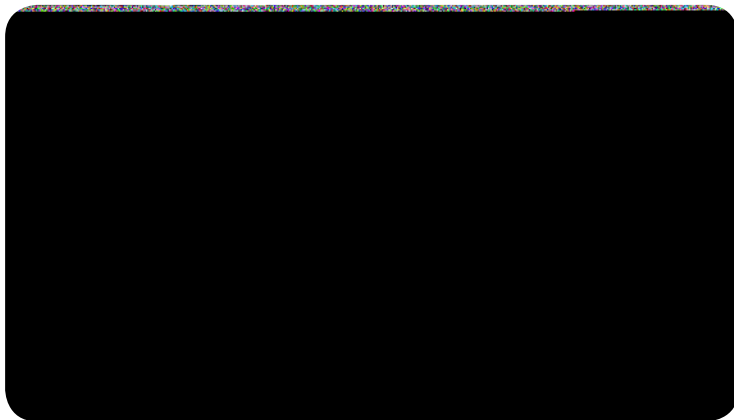
Prophet Elisha



picture 2.4 - Prophet Elisha

Prophet Elijah called Elisha while he was ploughing his field behind twelve pairs of oxen, by putting his cloak over his shoulders.

Curing Naaman from a dreaded skin disease



picture 2.5 - Naaman in the River Jordan

Prophet Elisha cured the dreaded skin disease of Naaman, who was a commander of the Siriyan army. Elisha cured Naaman, because he wanted to show him, that there is no other God on earth than the God Almighty. At the same time, Elisha wanted to end up the pride of Naaman. Through this curing it gives us a lesson, not to expect any payment for the help we do to others.

We can experience healing through prayers. Prayer gives us a great strength to our life. We cannot find or gain any success in our life without prayer. At that same time, we should worship one and only God, the Almighty. It is our responsibility to observe the first commandment of the Ten Commandment.

Activity

1. Read the passage 2nd Samuel 12:1-7 and write the parable in your words.
2. Write an incident which you have experienced the Divine Providence.



For Life

Always act in a way that suites the occasion.



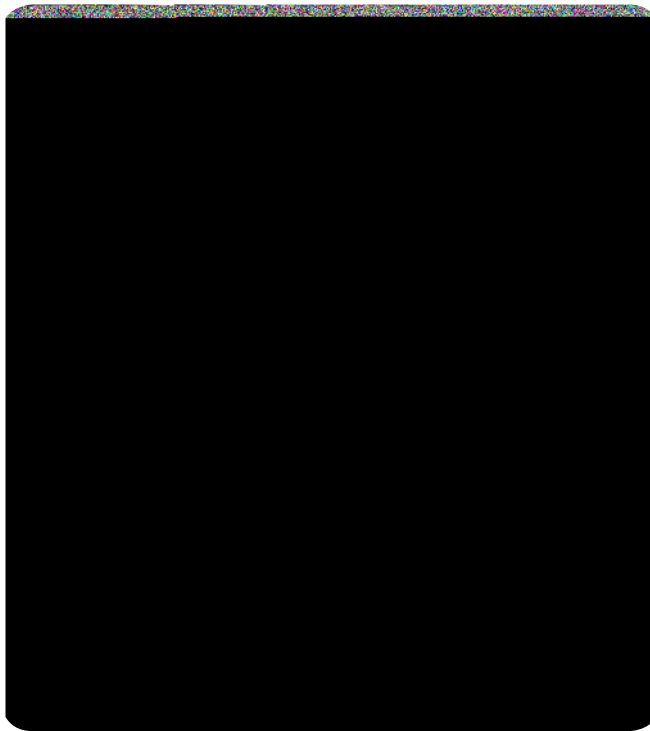
Major Prophets

You can remember, in the first lesson we have learnt that the Literary Prophets can be categorized into two divisions. They are Major and Minor Prophets. In this lesson you can learn about the three Major Prophets.

They are

1. Isaiah
2. Jeramiah
3. Ezekiel

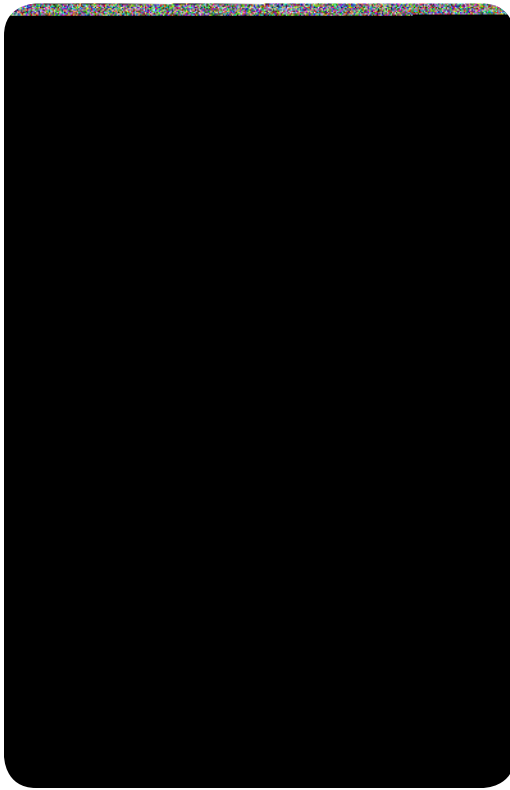
Prophet Isaiah



picture 3.1 - Prophet Isaiah

The meaning of the name Isaiah is “God Saves”. Isaiah lived in the eighth century B.C. and his father was Amoz.

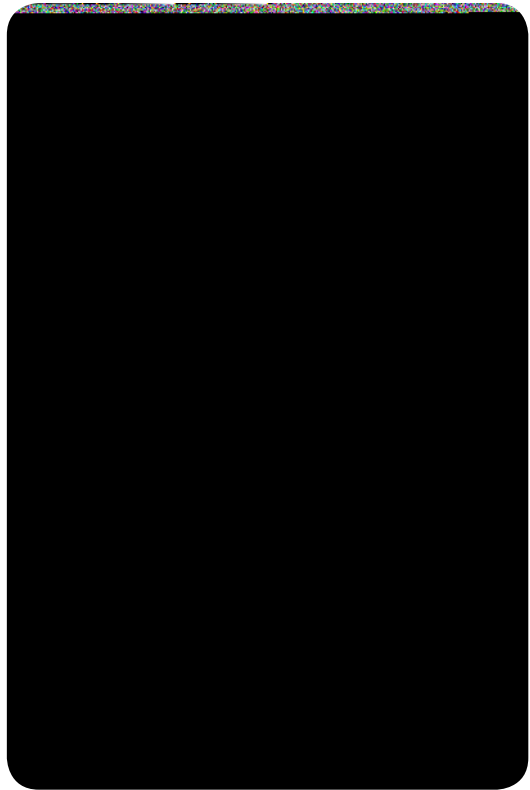
Prophet Jeramiah



picture 3.2 - Prophet Jeramiah

The meaning of the name Jeramiah is “God has lifted.” Jeramiah lived in seventh and sixth century B.C. and his father was a priest named Hilkiyah.

Prophet Ezekiel



picture 3.3 - Prophet Ezekiel

The meaming of the name Ezekiel is “God has Encouraged” He lived in sixth Century B.C. and Ezekiel's father's name was Buzi. Prophet Ezekiel proclaimed the message of God to Israelites who were in the Babylonian Exile.

The call of Prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 6:1-8)

The Lord is seated on a high and lofty throne, with the trail of his garment filling the Temple. Seraphim were stationed above; each of them had six wings: with two they veiled their faces, with two they veiled their feet, and with two they hovered aloft.

“Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of hosts” they cried one to the other. “All the earth is filled with his glory.” At the sound of that cry, the frame of the door shook and the house was filled with smoke. Then I said “woe is me, I am doomed! For I am a man of unclean lips, living among a people of unclean lips, yet my eyes have seen the king, the Lord of hosts!”

Then one of the seraphim flew to me, holding and ember which he had taken with tongs from the altar.

He touched my mouth with it. “see” he said “now this has touched your lips, your wickedness is removed, your sin purged”

According to the call of Isaiah, the temple was the Holy palace of God, where He is dwelling. Therefore venerability of the temple should be protected and also to take action to maintain the protection, respect and honour of the place while you are serving in the temple.

Because of that;

- When you are entering the church, kneel down, bend your head and worship to the Blessed Sacrament
- Should not walk or run here and there
- Should not talk or shout inside the church
- Should not eat any food inside the church
- Should come in clean and tidy clothes.

While they were proclaiming the God's message, prophets had to take the leadership. Today that task or the responsibility was given to you who were baptized. Therefore we have to develop the leadership qualities to lead;

- Facing the challenges
- Accepting the responsibilities
- Working as a community
- Dedicating for the work

Activity

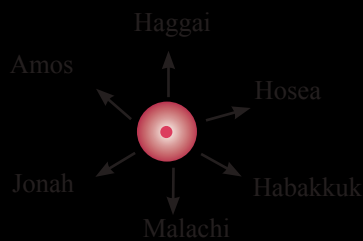
1. Draw a schema and include the names of the three major prophets, the meanings of their names, the time they lived and their fathers name.
2. Mention five tasks you can do to protect the honour and respect of your church.
3. Write five characteristics of the Leadership.
4. Mention five ways which you can serve in your parish.



For Life

Accept responsibility in every work.

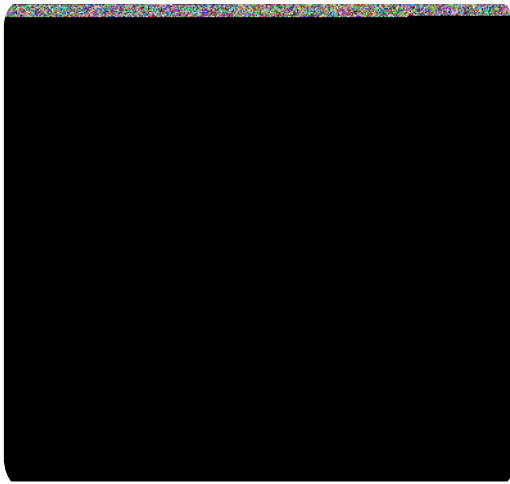




picture 4.1 - Minor Prophets

In this picture you can see some minor Prophets. Their responsibility was to hand over the message of God to the people. Through that message they wanted to show the people, injustice of the society corrupted administration, the destruction because of the sinfulness of people, the necessity of a real repentance, establishing a good and righteous life. The people of the past who turned away from God were advised to come back to God.

Prophet Amos



picture 4.2 - Prophet Amos

He was a Prophet who lived in Israel in 8th century B.C. He was a shepherd as well as a farmer who grew olives as his occupation. At the time of Prophet Amos, the society of Israel was corrupted with injustice, dishonesty oppression of the poor people and earned money in an unlawful way by oppressing the people at a time like. It was Amos who got his

prophetic call, proclaimed boldly to the people that the God of Justice hates those who are doing against his will.

Because of that Amos was named as “The Prophet of social justice”. Therefore we too must live a righteous life and stand against injustice of the society as Prophet Amos did.

Prophet Hosea

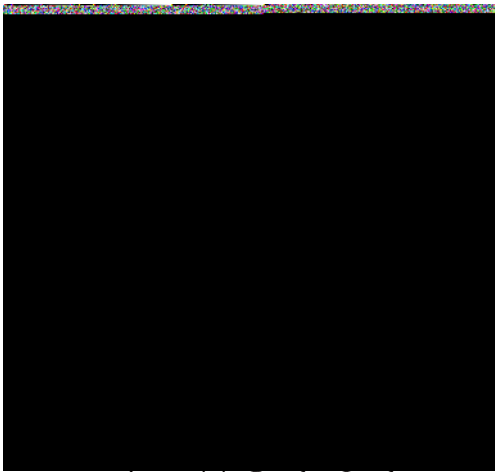


picture 4.3 - Prophet Hosea

Hosea is another Prophet who lived in the 8th century B.C. He had to fulfill his mission in Israel. The marriage life of Hosea was a good message he had to proclaim in his prophetic mission. He had married a woman called Gomer who went after other men leaving Hosea behind. Even though she went away, Hosea invited her to repent and finally she repented for all her sins. As Gomer

turned back to Hosea and went away from him, Israelites too forgot their God who loved them immensely, and went after the mythical gods and goddesses and worshiped them. As he did to his wife Hosea called all the people of Israel to repent for their sins. He invited them to come out of the darkness of sin. He also guided them to go after the Lord Almighty to offer their love and respect once again. As Hosea guided the people of Israel towards God the Almighty, we too have to worship one God love and serve him as good Christians.

Prophet Jonah



picture 4.4 - Prophet Jonah

Another Prophet who lived in 8th century B.C. was Jonah. He received a call to go to the wicked people of Nineveh and he invited them to repent for their sinful life. Jonah rejected God's call and wanted to flee away from God to the city of Tarshish. The ship which Jonah sailed caught into a furious storm. The officers of the ship cast lots to find who was the cause for the

storm. It fell on Jonah's name. Jonah revealed them that he is fleeing away from God's wish and because of him the sea grew more turbulent. He also requested them to put him into the sea. Even though they did not want to do any crime of murder with the strong appeal of Jonah, they threw Jonah into the sea. The sea calmed down at once. Jonah was swallowed by a large fish and spewed him up on to the beach after three days. Lying on the beach Jonah understood he had come to Nineveh. Jonah stayed in the city and proclaimed God's message to repent for their sins. The people of Nineveh believed the God's message, they prayed, fasted, and showed that they are repenting for their sins. Finally with the guidance of Jonah, the people of Nineveh received mercy of God. Therefore we also should take steps to bring back those who are doing wrong things into correct path as Prophet Jonah did.

Activity

1. Complete the statements given below by writing the appropriate name.
 - used his marriage life for his prophetic task.
 - led the people to repent for their sins and receive mercy of God.
 - was named as Prophet of social justice.
2. Write what kind of prophetic task you can do at the incidents given below.

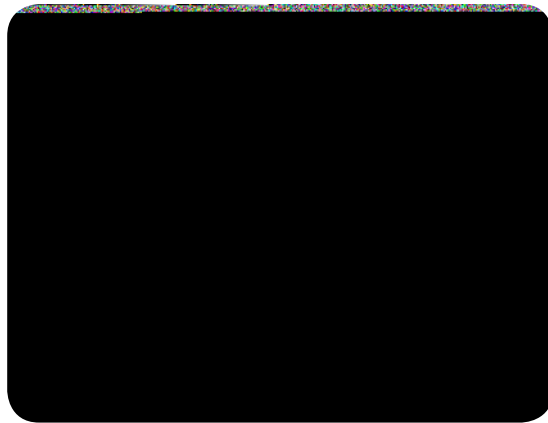
Incident	Prophetic task
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• When a helpless child is oppressed by others in the class room
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• When your brother or sister living a life away from God
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• When you meet a friend who is leading a bad life



For Life

I will fulfill my prophetic call by understanding the signs of the time.

The call of Abraham



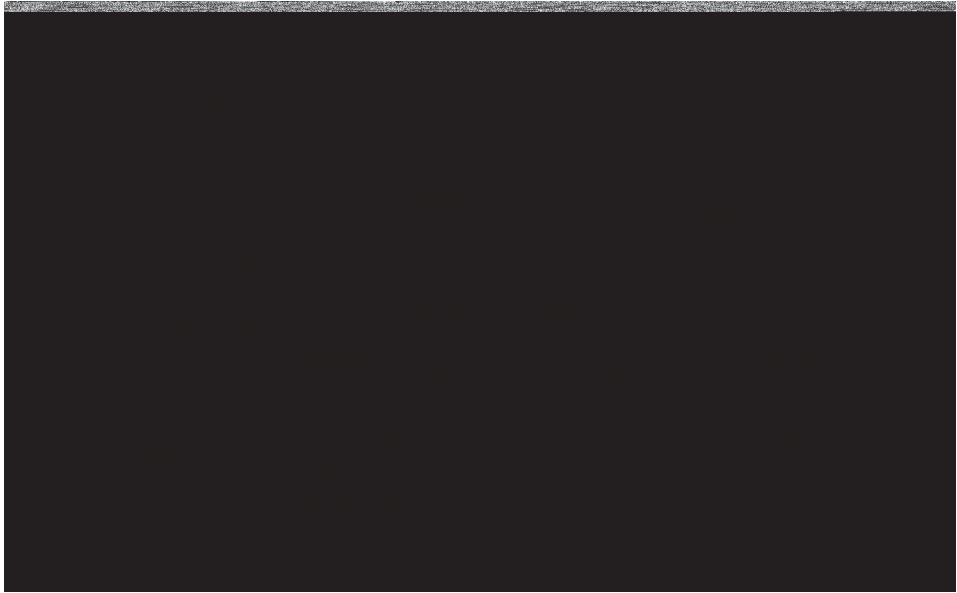
picture 5.1 - Abraham

After the sin of Adam and eve, God promised to send a saviour to liberate the whole mankind from their sin. To fulfill that promise, the first person who was chosen by God was Abraham. The God's calling, which was received by Abraham was the starting point for his special vocation. The Holy Bible reports the special call of Abraham as follows.

“The Lord said to Abraham: “Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father's house to a land that I will show you.” I will make of you a great nation and I will bless you. I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing Abraham went as the Lord directed him and Lot went with him. Abraham was seventy - five years old when he left Haran. Abraham took his wife sarai, his brother's son Lot, all the possessions that they had accumulated and the persons they had acquired in Haran and they set out for the Land of Canaan..... The Lord appeared to Abraham and said, “To your descendants I will give this land”.

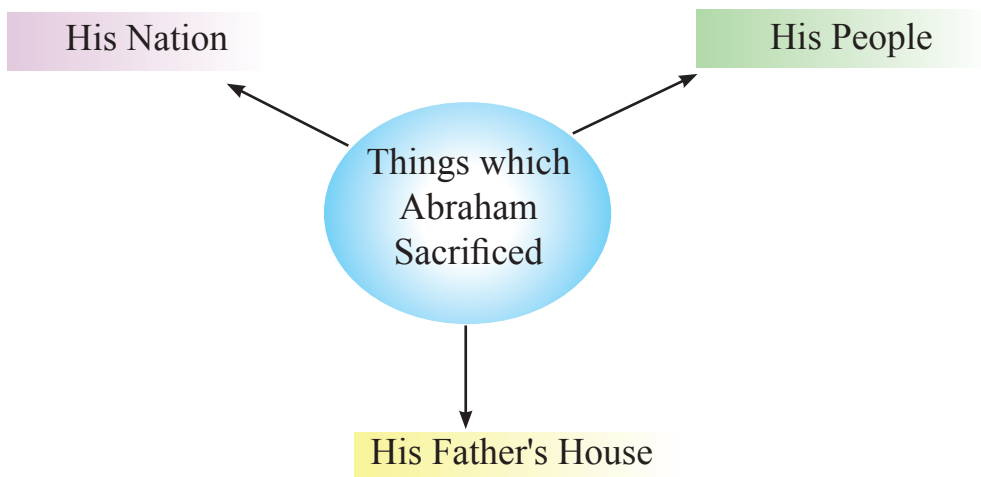
(Genesis 12:1,2,4,5,7)

The birth place of Abraham was Ur. But lived in Haran with his father and his relations. When he was in Haran he got a special call from God. According to that call, he had to go to Canaan. That land was also known as “Promised Land” You can identify Ur, Haran, Canaan, in the map given below.

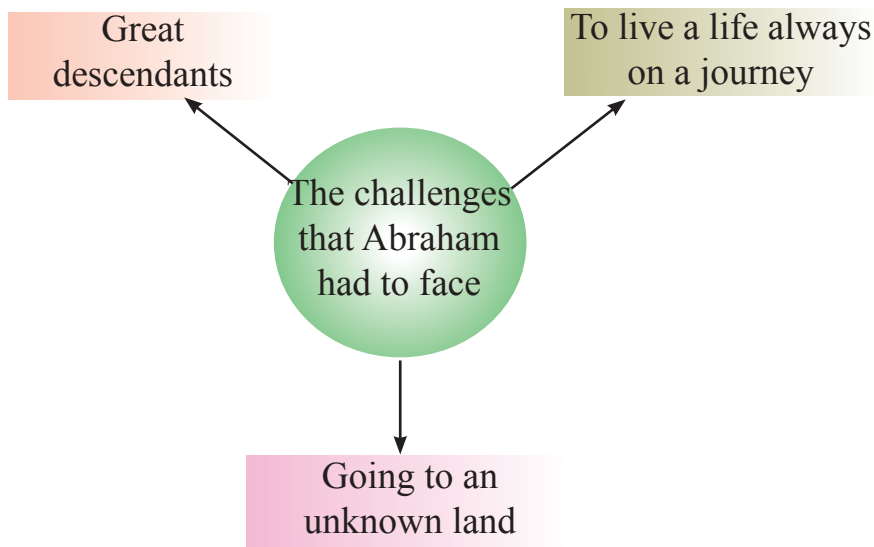


The call of Abraham has two elements

1. Sacrifice
2. Challenge



Abraham had to leave his father's tribe (House), his own people, and at the same time his own nation. Even though he needed his relations to share his sorrows, joys, pain, and happiness he had to leave everything and started his journey by keeping his full confidence in God. He also believed fully about the vocation that he received from God. Because of that faith Abraham was known as “Father of Faith”. Taking his exemplary life of faith, we too can learn to keep our trust always on God and act accordingly in our day to day life.



Abraham had to accept the promise of God for great descendants, when he was advanced in age and his wife was said to be barren. Abraham had to journey into an unknown far away land, which is Canaan, about 800 miles (1300 kilo meters) away from his own land Haran. They are the challenges that Abraham faced.

God's Promise to Abraham

When listening to the voice of God and live according to it, certain things have to be sacrificed in our lives, it is also we have to face challenges. But everything will not come to an end from sacrifices and challenges.

God's abundant blessings will be showered upon on those who obey the will of God. The graces which Abraham received in future was expressed through the God's promise the promise itself is two fold.

1. Great descendant through Abraham
2. Abraham's descendants possessing the Land for ever

When God called Abraham, he was at the age of 75 and his wife was 65. But God promised them to give a child to make a big generation. According to the promise that generation was Israelites: the land that they possessed was “Promised Land”.

The Examples we can take from the call of Abraham

- As students, God calls you for different tasks, therefore you must be prepared to obey his call.
- According to the call, give maximum service to the Lord.
- Keep your trust fully in God, accept His Word, and live according to it.
- In our life journey, we should be ready to accept different things that we have to sacrifice.
- At the decisive moments in our life, we should change our life by accepting the will of God.
- We should pray to God abundantly to get strength to face challenges successfully.

Activity

1. Write two elements of Abraham's vocation.
2. Write in three points, how you are guiding one of your friends to keep trust in God at the time he/she lost confidence in God.
3. Write how you are acting to be victorious at the below mentioned challenges
 - i When your best friend is not in good terms with you and turned back to you.
 - ii When you were defeated at the sports event.
 - iii. When your parents did not give their consent to go on a trip.
 - iv. When your mother fell down with a serious sickness.
 - v. When your life filled with sorrows and troubles.
4. Write the two promises God had given to Abraham.
5. Write three points that you can take from the exemplary life of Abraham.



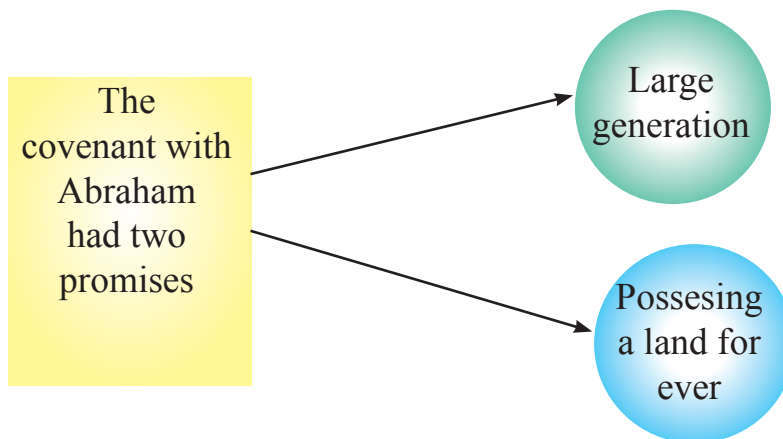
For Life

- Let us accept the vocations we get in day to day life.
- In all our needs, let us turn towards God with trust.
- Let us face the challenges in faith.
- Let us experience Divine Providence through faith.

Covenant with Abraham

Covenant is an agreement between two persons or between two parties. In the modern society, there are different agreements: marriage agreement, trade agreements etc are some of them. After every covenant or an agreement, it was verified by the two parties by signing those agreements. The covenants which happened between God and man had a speciality than the covenants between a man and a man. God took the initiative in those covenants. In every covenant, God explained about the covenant and also fulfilled the promises.

God made a covenant with Abraham



A large Generation

He brought him out side and said "Lookup at the sky, and count the stars, if you can. Just so," He added "shall your descendants be"

(Genesis 15:5)

I will render you exceedingly fertile; I will make nations of you; kings shall stem from you.

(Genesis 17:6)

The above Scripture passages show us that Abraham is going to be the father of a big generation. God fulfilled his promise and gave him a son. Although he was advance in age, because of Abraham Sarah gave birth to a son and his name was Isaac.

A land inherited forever

“To your descendants,
I will give this land of
Cannanites.”
(Genesis 15:21)

“I will give to you and to your
descendants after you, the land
which you are now staying,
the whole land of Canaan as a
permandent possession”.
(Genesis 17:8)

The above scripture passages show us, God is going to give the land of Canaan to Abraham and his descendants. Abraham's whole future life was depended on God's grace and mercy. Holy Scripture proves us the promise that God gave to Abraham had succeeded as it was. In their old age, Abraham and Sarah had a child. His name was Isaac. The great nation had developed through Isaac. The descendants of Abraham became the heirs of the land of Canaan.

How they did the Covenant

He said to him “I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as a possession.” O Lord God" he asked “How am I to know that I shall possess it?” He answered him. “Bring me a three-year old heifer, a three year old she goat, a ram three - year - old a turtle dove and a young pigeo”. He brought him all these, split them in two and placed each half opposite the other; but the birds

he did not cut up..... when the sun had set and it was dark, there appeared a smoking (fire pot) and a flaming torch, which passed between those pieces

(Genesis 15:7-10,17)

The above Scripture passage shows us how God did a covenant with Abraham. The smoking brazier and the flaming torch which passed in between those pieces symbolized not Abraham but God Himself. Those smoking brazier and the flaming torch symbolized God. Therefore only God had gone in between those pieces. God enlightened Abraham's life by going through his life's sorrows, pains obstacles and troubles.

Symbol of the Covenant (Circumcision)

“This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, that you must keep: every male among you shall be circumcised. Circumcised flesh of your foreskin, shall be the mark of the covenant between you and me. Throughout the ages, every male among you when he is eight days old, shall be circumcised.”

(Genesis 17:10-12)

Circumcision was the external symbol of the covenant, which God made with Abraham. It was the sure symbol of the Israelites dedication to God. It was a symbol of a special vocation. As the descendants of Abraham were circumcised, we too were Baptized. Through that we became the people of God in the new covenant who are dedicated to God.

Changing the Name of Abraham and the meanings of Names

“No longer shall you be called Abram; your name shall be Abraham, for I am making you father of a host of Nations.”

(Genesis 17:5)

The previous name of Abraham was Abram. The meaning of Abram is “The great father” God changed the name “Abram” into “Abraham” which gives the meaning of “Father of Nations”

The name of a person indicates the personality of the person. By changing the name also signifies the life style and the status of that person. At Baptism all of us were given a Christian name. Find out the Christian name you were given. Get the life story of that saint and read. Did you try to imitate that saint; after meditating upon that life? Some times you may not have a Christian name as such, even though, you were dedicated to God through Baptism. Think of that, and try to live as a dedicated child of God.

Through Baptism we entered into a life of covenant. Because of that, we have to live according to our Baptismal promises. We have to be faithful to God and reject satan and evil actions. As a student you have to understand that you were also given a vocation through your Baptism. There are many ways and means to succeed in your vocation.

- ★ Be an active member of the Church
- ★ Introduce Jesus Christ by bearing witness to him through your life
- ★ Be a witness to your faith in the presence of others
- ★ Live according to the ten commandments
- ★ Fulfill the promises given to others
- ★ Be a witness to the Living Christ, through your missionary activities
- ★ Always listen to God who speaks to you through your life experiences

Activity

1. What are the two main points of the covenant with Abraham?
2. What is the meaning of the name “Abraham”?
3. Write three tasks that you can do in your parish as a Baptized person, who were invited to live in the covenantal life.
4. Write three points each, how you are fulfilling your promises towards your parents and teachers.

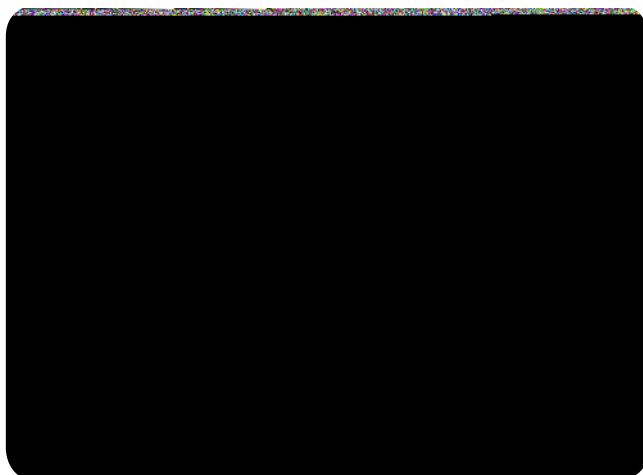


For Life

- ★ Fulfill your promises.
- ★ Live according to the Baptismal promises.



Isaac



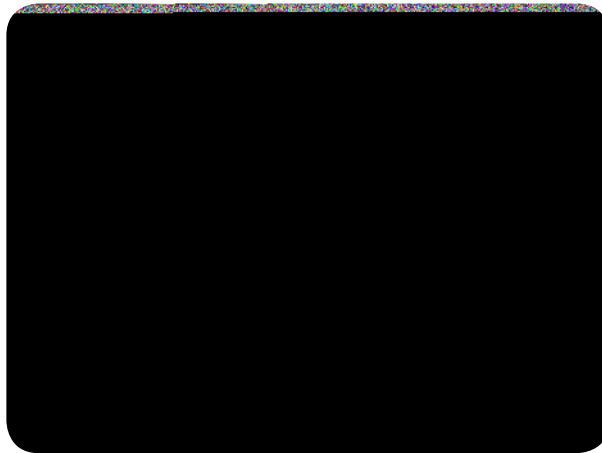
picture 7.1 - The Birth of Isaac

The Birth of Isaac

God was kind to Sarah as he has said, and fulfilled his promise to her. Sarah became pregnant and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time that God had stated. Abraham gave the name Isaac to this son of his whom sarah bore him. When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God had commanded. Abraham was hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. Sarah then said, "God has given me cause to laugh, and all who hear of it, will laugh with me."

(Genesis 21:1-6)

When Isaac was born, Abraham was 100 years in age and sarah was 90 years in age. This shows, nothing is impossible with God. Because of that we have to keep our trust fully in God and have to pray in faith. The meaning of the name Isaac is "Smiling".



picture 7.2 - Sacrificing Isaac

Abraham Sacrificing Isaac (Genesis 22:1-19)

God :- “Abraham! Take your son Isaac, your only one, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him up as a holocaust on a mountain that I will point out to you.”

Abraham :- Son, Isaac let us take fire wood and go to the land of Moriah to offer a holocaust.

Isaac :- Yes my father, I hurry and prepare my self.

Abraham :- Alright my son, let us start our journey. (Abraham gave fire wood to Isaac, and took the fire and the knife in his hand and both started their journey)

Isaac :- Father we have fire and firewood; but we do not have a sheep for the holocaust?

Abraham :- Son, God himself will provide us with a sheep for the holocaust. When Abraham came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built an altar. There he arranged the wood over it. Next he tied up his son Isaac and put him on top of the wood on the altar. Then he reached out and took the knife to slaughter his son.

Angel :- Abraham, Abraham ! do not lay your hand on the boy. I

know now, how you are devoted to your God. Since you did not withhold from me your own beloved son.

(As Abraham looked about, he saw a ram, caught by its horns in the thicket, so he went and took the ram and offered it up as a holocaust in place of his son)

The people of the land of Canaan had a tradition to offer their first child to the mythical gods. To follow that tradition Abraham also prepared to offer his son as a sacrifice. God gave him a ram instead of Isaac. By this, God wanted to show the ritual which was among the Canaanites should not be done by Israelites any more. At that point, according to God's promise, Abraham had to obey God and was ready to sacrifice his own son, even though the dream of a big generation was laid on Isaac's life, because he loved and trusted God.

It proved, Isaac also obeyed his father and accepted to do the will of God. We too should also obey our parents as Isaac and become good children. God is also expecting us to trust him and become good children. Today, God expects us to live a good dedicated life as he expected from Abraham.

Renewing the Covenant through Isaac

But when Isaac's servants dug in the valley and found spring water in their well, the shepherds of Gerar quarreled with Isaac's servants, saying, "The water belongs to us!" Then they dig another well; but over this, they did not quarrel. It was called "Rehoboth", because he said "The Lord has now given us ample room, and we shall flourish in the land". From there Isaac went up to Beersheba. The same night the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am the God of your father Abraham you have no need to fear, since I am with you. I will bless you and multiply your descendants for the sake

of servant Abraham.” So he built an altar there and invoked the name of the Lord.

(Genesis 26:19-25)

When Isaac's servants, dug in the valley and found spring water, in their well, the shepherds of Gerar quarreled with Isaac's servants saying “The water belongs to us.” But the response that Isaac showed was very important. Isaac did not fight against with them. What Isaac did was, advised his shepherds to dig their well on some other land. According to that, Isaac gives us an example, not to fight with anybody.

God encouraged Isaac and renewed the covenant of Abraham with Isaac, saying, “you have no need to fear. since I am with you. I will bless you and multiply your descendants for the sake of my servant.”



Isaac reminds us to live peacefully with everyone. This is the only solution for all our problems, in our families, schools and in our society where we live.

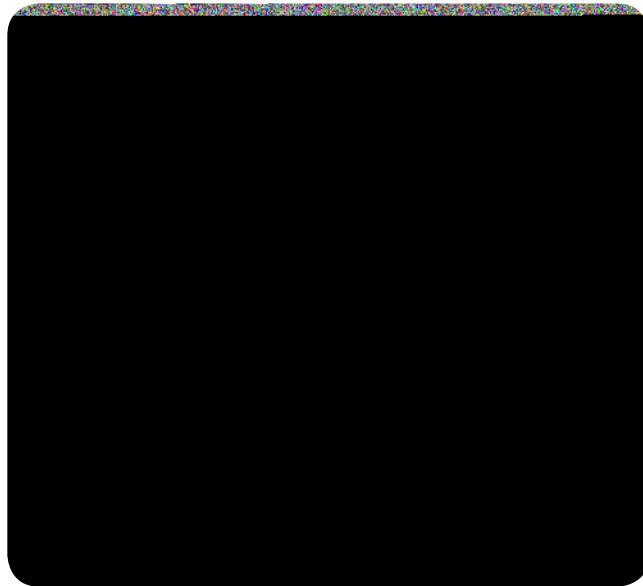
Activity

1. What is the meaning of the name “Isaac”?
2. Write three ways how you can obey your parents at home?
3. Write three characteristics, you should have to live peacefully when you are faced with problems.
4. Write two virtues that Isaac had in his life.
5. Write three examples you can take from the life of Isaac.



For Life

- Be an obedient child of your parents.
- When you work, cooperate with others.
- Train yourself to be patient when troubles come.



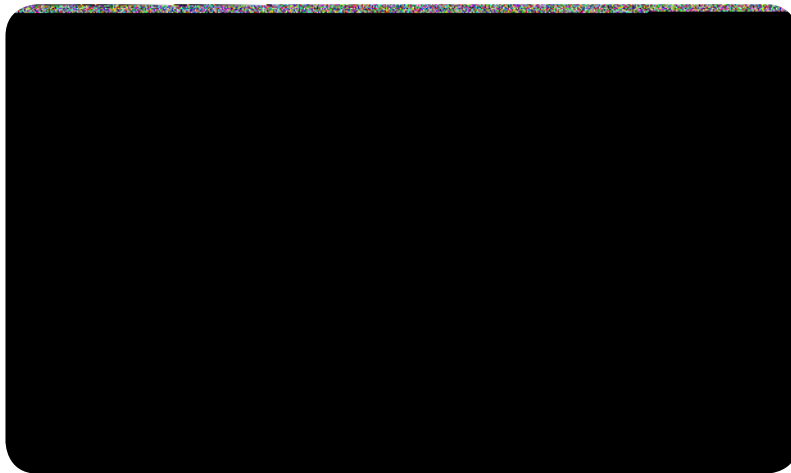
picture 8.1 - Birth of Jacob

The Birth of Jacob

Abraham had begotten Isaac. Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel and the sister of Laban. Isaac entreated the Lord on behalf of his wife since she was sterile. Lord heard his entreaty and Rebekah became pregnant. But the children in her womb jostled each other so much that she exclaimed "If this is so, what good will it do to me!" She went to consult the Lord and he answered her. Two nations are in your womb; two people are quarelling while ill within you. But one shall surpass the other and the older shall serve the younger. When the time of her delivery came there were twins in her womb. The first to emerge was reddish and his whole body was like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. His

brother came out next, gripping Esau's heel; so they named him Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when they were born to Rebekah.

(Genesis 25:19-26)



picture 8.2 - Vision at Bethel

Vision at Bethel (Renewing the Covenant)

Jacob departed from Beer - sheba and proceeded towards Haran. When he came upon a certain shrine, as the sun had already set, he stopped there for the night. Taking one of the stones at the shrine he put it under his head and laid down to sleep at that spot. Then he had a dream: a stairway rested on the ground. With its top reaching to the heavens; and God's messengers were going up and down on it. And there was the Lord. Standing beside him and saying. "I, The Lord, am the God of your forefather Abraham and the God of Isaac; the land which you are lying I will give to you and your descendants. These shall be as plentiful as the dust of the earth, and through them you shall spread out East and West,

North and South. In you and your descendants all the nations of the earth shall find Blessings. Know that I am with you; I will protect you wherever you go and bring you back to this land. I will never leave you until I have done what I promised you.” When Jacob awoke from his sleep he exclaimed "Truly the Lord is in this spot, although I did not know it" Early the next morning Jacob took the stone that he had put under his head set it up as a memorial stone and poured oil on top of it. He called that site Bethel.

(Genesis 28:10-16, 18-19)

The covenant that God had done with Abraham was renewed with Jacob. “The land which you are lying, I will give to you and your descendants. These shall be as plentiful as the dust of the earth and through them you shall spread out East and West, North and South” Jacob received his vocation at that place. When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he named that place as “Bethel” which means “The House of God”

Vision at Penuel (Genesis 32:24-32)

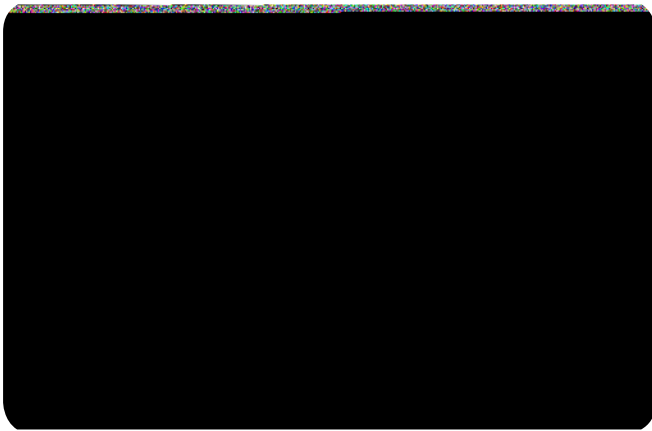


picture 8.3 - Vision at penuel

After living in Haran, Jacob set out on his journey back home to the promised land. While Jacob continued on his journey, one man wrestled with him until the break of dawn. When the man saw that he could not prevail over him, he struck Jacob's hip at it's socket; so the hip socket of Jacob was wrenched, as they wrestled. The man then said, “Let me go, for it is day break.” But Jacob said “I will not let you go, until you bless me”. "What is

your name?” the man asked. He answered “Jacob”, then the man said, “you no longer be spoken of as Jacob, but as "Israel", because you have contended with divine and human beings and have prevailed. Jacob then asked him “Tell me your name please.” He answered, “why should you want to know my name?” with that he blessed Jacob and bade him fairwell. We can understand the story above that tells us about the spiritual struggle which Jacob had within himself to accept his vocation.

Jacob Reconciled with Esau



picture 8.4 - Jacob bowed Esau



picture 8.5 - Reconciled with Esau

Jacob looked up and saw Esau coming, accompanied by four hundred men. Jacob went on bowing to the ground seven times, until he reached his brother.

(Genesis 33:1-3)

The above Scripture passage shows us how Jacob reconciled with his brother Esau. It verifies that Jacob bowed seven times in front of his brother. While he is coming towards him to greet in response to Jacob's action, Holy Bible reports, Esau ran to meet Jacob, embraced him and clinging flinging himself on his neck, kissed as he wept. They truly

reconciled themselves not only in words, but in the depth too. Those who forgive others will receive the forgiveness of God.

The examples we can get from the reconciliation of Jacob with Esau

- ★ Accept the sinfulness and receive forgiveness after doing an offence
- ★ Forgive those who hurt you
- ★ Forgiveness which gives by word should be proved through the deed
- ★ Live peacefully with your brother

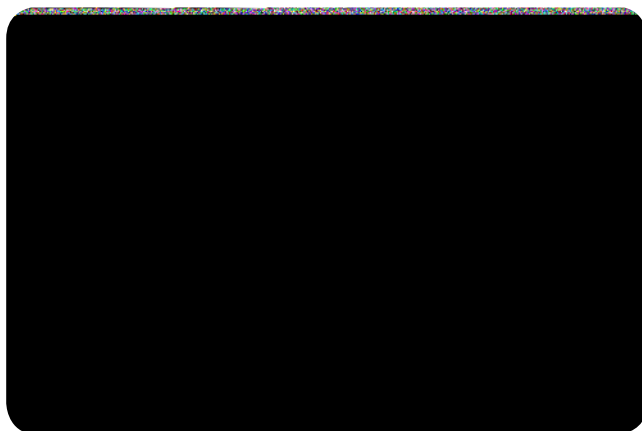
Activity

1. Who are the parents of Jacob?
2. Write the names of the twins, given birth by Rebekah?
3. What did God say about the twins who were in Rebeka's womb?
4. Define the names, Esau and Jacob?
5. Write in brief about the vision at Bethel?
6. Define the word “Bethel”?
7. Write, what was the reason, that Jacob received the name "Israel"?
8. Mention two examples you can take from the reconcillation of Jacob with Esau?



For Life

- ★ Let us live peacefully with everybody.
- ★ Be friendly with those who are aggressive to you.
- ★ Let us respond to the Divine voice.



picture 9.1 - The calling of the first four disciples

The first disciples who followed Jesus (Matthew 4:18-22)

(One day Jesus was walking by the sea of Galilee)

Andrew : Peter, who is that person, coming towards us?

Peter : Ah! Is that Jesus?
(Jesus comes towards them)

Jesus : “Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men”

Peter and

Andrew : “Lord , we will come with you”
(As they walked little further with Jesus, and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They too were in a boat mending their nets with their father)

Jesus : “Come after me”

James and

John : Lord, we are also coming with you. Father we are going with Jesus. Peter and Andrew are also with Jesus. They are our friends.

“Come and follow me” was the calling of Jesus to Peter, Andrew, James and John, and at once, they followed Jesus. It was explained by the above dialogue (Matthew 4:18-22). They are the first disciples of Jesus. They;

- ★ Obeyed Jesus' word.
- ★ Left everything and followed Jesus.
- ★ Priority of their lives was given to Jesus.
- ★ Followed Jesus and proclaimed Good News to others.

“Come and follow me, I will make you the fishers of men”. We too have received a calling at our Baptism. Jesus calls all of us for different tasks. Therefore it is our responsibility to respond to those callings.

What we should do, to respond to our Christian calling

- ★ We too should take the example of obedience of the first disciples to our life.
- ★ We should respond to the call at any moment of our life.
- ★ Being obedient to the Jesus' words, we should fulfill our duties and responsibilities which will be assigned to us.
- ★ We should meditate on God's word constantly.
- ★ By listening to the Divine word, we should explain the word of God to others.

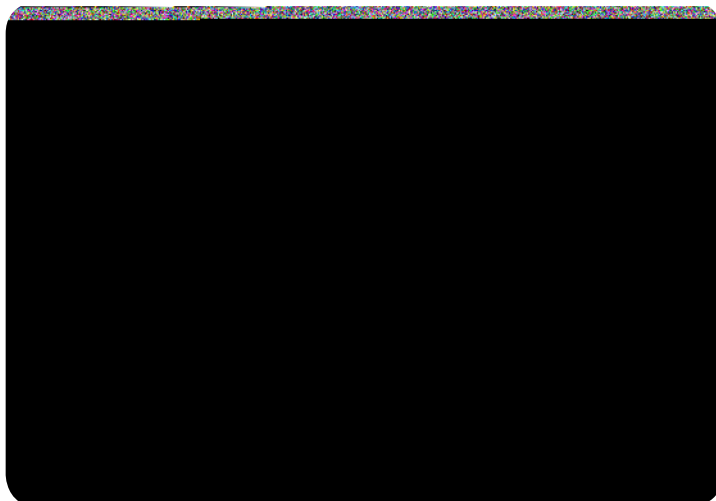
Call of Matthew

As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the custom's post. He said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up and followed him.

(Matthew 9:9)

At the time of Jesus, the tax collectors were cornered from the Jewish society, because they collected excess taxes from the Jews in an unlawful way, which they should pay to the Roman empire. Because of that, the tax collectors were named as sinners. But Jesus invited such a person whose name was Matthew. Sitting at the custom's post said "Come follow me". He got up, left everything and followed him. In the same way there were people of different occupations, situations and status were among the disciples of Jesus. When we receive God's call we are obliged to leave everything and follow Jesus at any situation and at any cost.

The Twelve Apostles



picture 9.2 - Twelve Apostles

The names of the twelve apostles are these: first Simon called peter, and his brother Andrew; James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew, Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alpheus, and Thaddeus, Simon the Canaanee and Judas Iscariot who betrayed him.

(Matthew 10:2-4)

Jesus selected the twelve and called them Apostles, that they might be with him, and send them forth to preach and to have authority to drive out demons. The appointed twelve apostles are:

1. Saint peter
2. Saint Andrew
3. Saint James, Son of Zebedee
4. Saint John
5. Saint Philip
6. Saint Bartholomew
7. Saint Thomas
8. Saint Matthew
9. Saint James, son of Alphaeus
10. Saint Jude Thaddeus
11. Saint Simon Cananean
12. Judas who betrayed Jesus

Judas who betrayed Jesus later repented for the act he did and hanged himself and died. Because of that one was less out of twelve. Therefore they prayed and selected Matthew to replace Judas, as an Apostle. So St. Matthew became the twelfth apostle of the early Christian community.

Commissioning the Missionary Responsibilities

Before his ascension, Jesus commissioned the Missionary Mandate to his Apostles by saying the below mentioned words.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold I am with you always until the end of the age.”

(Matthew 19:20)

Before he bid farewell to his Apostles, Jesus had given responsibilities to his Apostles, to carry on His mission. “Make disciples of all nations”. According to that as baptized, we have to introduce Jesus to others. “Baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit”. By this we see that the responsibility of conferring the sacrament of Baptism was directly given by Jesus Christ. “Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you”. Because of this command, it is not enough to receive the sacrament of Baptism itself, but we have to observe the doctrine that Jesus taught, every day in our lives.

What we can do to introduce Jesus into the world

- ★ Study the Holy Scripture thoroughly
- ★ Receive the sacraments
- ★ Constant participation in the Liturgy
- ★ Read, meditate, and live according to the Scripture
- ★ Be active in the missionary work
- ★ Join and serve in the associations and confraternities of the parish

Activity

1. Name the first four disciples of Jesus.
2. By following the call of the first disciples of Jesus, write three tasks that you can do in your school.
3. Read Acts 1/12-26 and write an essay about the incident of choosing Matthew for the place of Judas.
4. Write the three commands that Jesus had given to his disciples at his farewell discourse on the Ascension day.
5. Mention three tasks that you can do to bring others to God.

6. The Names of the disciples of Jesus are hidden in the cross word puzzle given below. Draw this puzzle in your exercise book and colour the appropriate cages which indicates the names of the Apostles.

S	E	B	E	D	E	J	O	H	N	B	T	S
O	M	A	T	L	F	U	T	U	B	B	O	N
N	S	T	H	J	U	D	A	S	U	A	N	S
O	M	I	O	H	L	E	V	I	T	R	O	A
F	A	T	M	A	V	T	S	P	E	T	E	R
A	T	H	A	O	N	H	T	H	G	H	F	A
L	T	I	S	I	N	A	U	I	L	O	M	P
P	H	M	P	M	B	D	S	L	Q	L	A	C
H	E	L	O	A	C	D	T	I	P	O	M	S
A	W	P	J	A	M	E	S	P	T	M	Q	R
E	P	Q	O	R	L	A	N	D	R	E	W	L
U	R	S	H	I	R	S	I	M	O	W	M	B
S	J	A	M	E	S	S	O	N	P	A	L	S

8. If you get a calling to serve God, write in five lines, how you are going to act according to it?
9. Write in 100 words, a speech you are giving at a religious society on the topic “Importance of listening to the word of God?”



For Life

- ★ Word of God is the source of wisdom which leads towards.
- ★ Let us share the word of God with others.
- ★ Let us introduce Jesus to others



Sacrament of Baptism

Nirmala : Hear ! the bell is ringing. Are we having religion now?

Cyril : Yes, Look our teacher is coming.

Teacher : God Bless you ! children

Children : God Bless you ! Teacher

Teacher : Children, let us sing a hymn to the Holy spirit
(Teacher and the whole class sing the Hymn - Come Holy
Ghost - creator blest)
Who can say, how all of us can become Catholics?

Nirmala : Teacher I know the answer, I will tell you. We learnt that in
grade six. When we were infants we all received baptism.
That is how we become Catholics.

Cyril : Teacher, I was baptized when I was a baby, the photograph
which had taken on that day is still in our photo album.

Teacher : Very good children, all of us became Catholics because of
Baptism. Today I am going to tell you, how the sacrament of
Baptism is conferred to a recipient.

Cyril : Teacher, When my baby sister was baptized, I saw father was
pouring water on her head.

Teacher : Son, your memory is very good, today I will explain
everything clearly. When conferring baptism, water, paschal
candle, white garment, Holy oil are used for the sacrament.
Did you see those pictures in your 10th Lesson of grade 6
book.

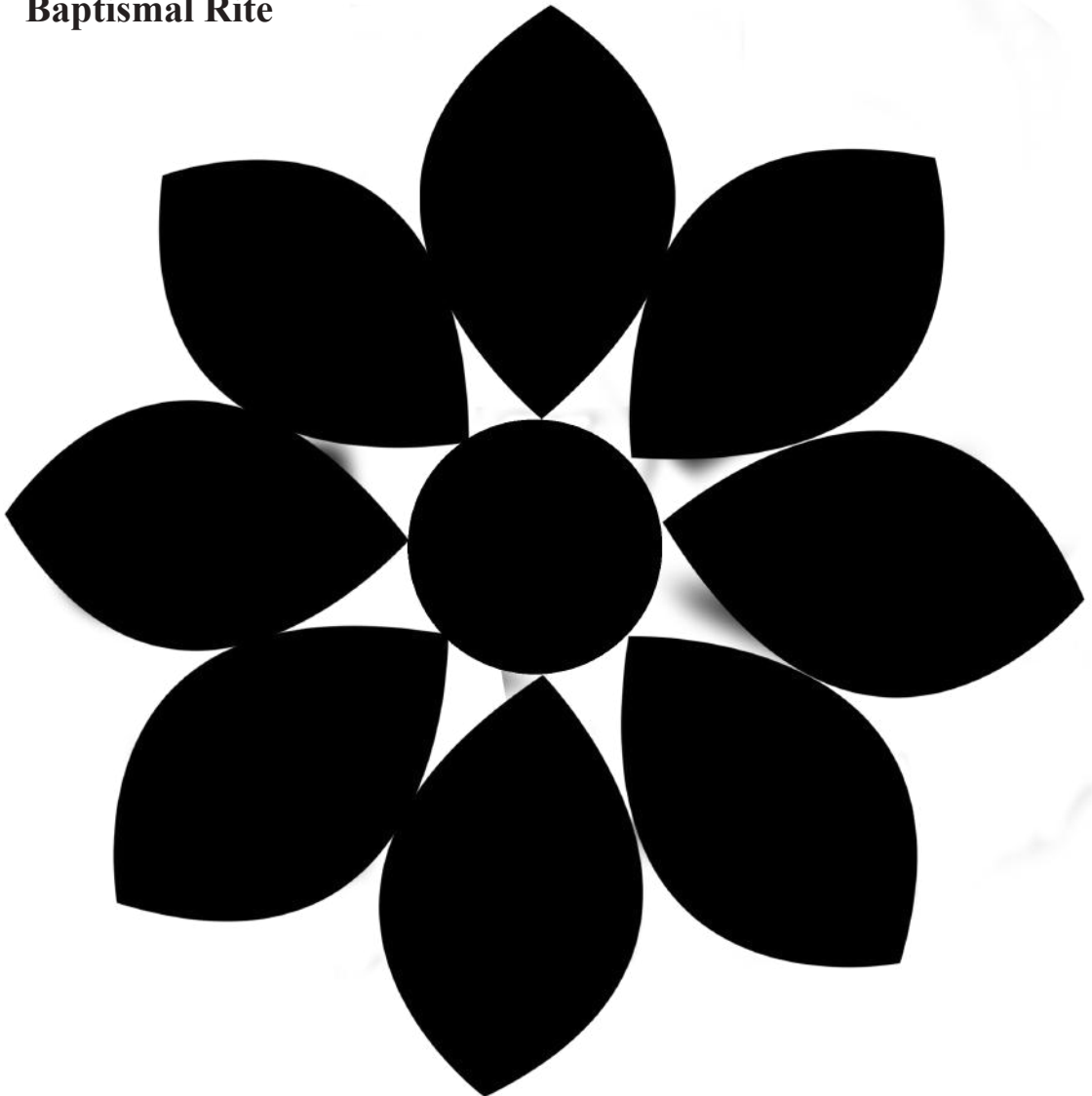
Nirmala : Yes teacher, we saw that.

Teacher : There is an Order to follow, to confer the sacrament of Baptism.

Patrick : Teacher from where can we see that order?
In which book can we find it?

Teacher : Haven't you seen the book which is used by the priest when he is giving different blessings. That is the book which gives the order of the baptism. We call it Ritual.

Baptismal Rite



Picture 10.1 - Rite of baptism

- In the name of the Father
- Inquiring the (Christian) name of the child from parents
- Informing the responsibilities of parents and God parents by the priest
- Making the sign of the cross on the child's forehead by the priest (parents and God parents) : It symbolizes the salvation given by Jesus on the Cross
- Liturgy of the word and the prayers of the faithful: to respond to the Christian faith, so that those who listened to the word of God will be enlightened
- Invoking the Blessings of the saints
- Prayer of Exorcism : that symbolizes the defeating of satan and the sin
- Anointing with oil of catechuminate
- Priest keeps the hands on the head of the child and pray
- Making the Baptismal promises : parents and God parents, promise on behalf of the infant, to believe in the triune God and reject the satan and his evil acts
- Pouring water on the head of the infant and Baptize the child : This is the most essential and important part of the Baptismal Rite; that is “..... (name) I Baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy spirit” by saying these words water is poured three times on the head of that infant. Through this rite it indicates that the recipient will be Baptized with water and the Holy spirit.
- Anointing with the chrism oil (sacred chrism). The priest will be anointing with the sacred chrism and make the infant a priest, prophet and a king
- Clothing with the white Garment : This symbolizes, that the child who receives Baptism receives the virtues of the life of Jesus Christ.
- Lighting candle from the paschal candle : This symbolizes. that the child will be enlightened by the light of the Risen Christ. Because of that, child should live as a light to the world.
- Blessing of the mother and father
- Final Blessing

Cannon Law about Baptism

There are some articles about the baptism in the code of Cannon Law

- The child should be Baptized in the parish where he/she belongs.
- There should be a valid reason to receive Baptism away from the parish Church.
- The child should be Baptized within the few weeks after he/she was born.
- The parents should be spiritually and physically well prepared for the child's Baptism. (Eg) inform the parish priest in time and get the instruction that is necessary to take up their Christian responsibilities as parents.
- Baptism should be given as soon as possible, for the children who are at the point of death.
- The consent of either parties of the parents or the guardians should be given on behalf of the child and the priest should have confidence on the child who would lead a life of Catholic faith.
- If anybody who receive baptism at the point of death, he/she should promise to fulfill the expectations of the Catholic Doctrine, if he survived.

Activity

1. What is the most important and the essential part of the Baptismal Rite?
2. What is the meaning of lighting the candle from the paschal candle?
3. Make a small booklet with pictures which depicts the order of the sacrament of Baptism.



For Life

Observe the Rite of Baptism very well and inquire the details of the Baptismal rite from your parish priest, for your knowledge.



picture 11.1 -Taking the priestly vows



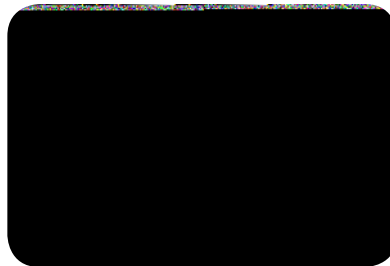
picture 11.2 - Lying downwards and pray



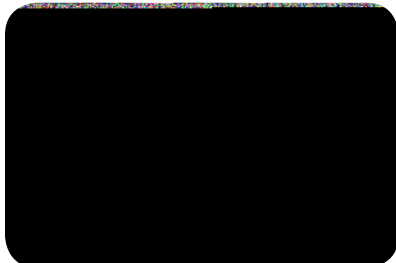
Picture 11.3 - praying over the head of the recipient



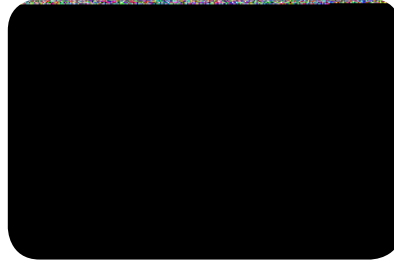
picture 11.4 - Consecration prayer



picture 11.5 - Clothing the priestly attire



picture 11.6 - Anointing hands with sacred chrism

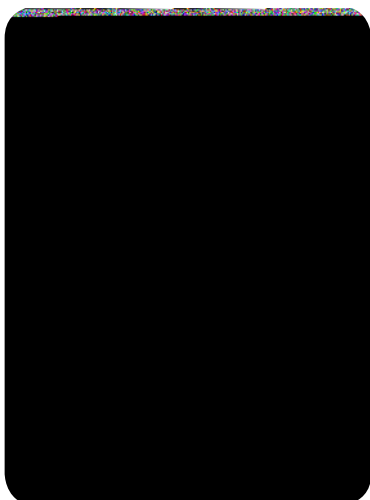


picture 11.7 - Handing over the pattern with the host and the chalice with wine

Focus your attention on the pictures given above. They depict the special events of the rite of Holy Orders. This sacrament is conferred by the Bishop by keeping his hands on the head of the deacon and praying over him. Bishop confers this sacrament to the recipient.

Ordination is a great vocation one can receive from God the Father. This is the sacrament, which was cammanded and handed over to his disciples by Jesus Christ himself, to carry on his mission in the Church,

till the end of the world. The sacrament of the Holy orders was instituted by Christ, at the Last supper on Holy Thursday. Because of that Holy Thursday is considered as the 'feast day of the priests' and on that day faithful are invited to pray for the priests. The sacrament of the Holy orders is one of the sacraments which keeps an indelible mark on the soul. Because of that, it can be received only once in the life time. The priest who receives the Holy orders, is a mediator between God and Man. There are three degrees in the ministerial priesthood. They are deacon, priest and Bishop. Their responsibilities were mentioned below.



picture 11.8 - a deacon

Responsibilities of a Deacon

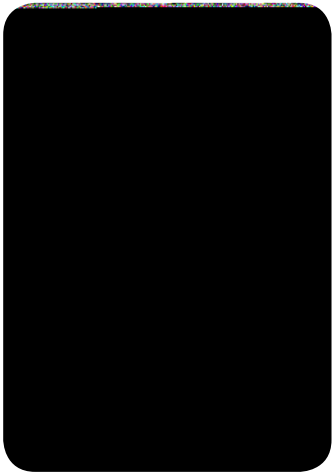
- Proclamation of the Gospel and preaching in the Eucharistic celebrations
- Conferring the sacrament of Baptism according to the Rite
- Giving the Eucharistic Blessing during the Benediction
- blessing the married couple (rectifying the marriage)
- Presiding over funerals
- Assist the Bishop and priests in the celebration of the divine mysteries



picture 11.9 - a priest

Responsibilities of a Priest

- Celebrate the Divine worship (Holy mass)
- Preach the Gospel
- Be a Shepherd to the faithful
- Confer the sacraments (except confirmation and Holy orders)
- Presiding at the Matrimonial Rite
- Blessing people and things

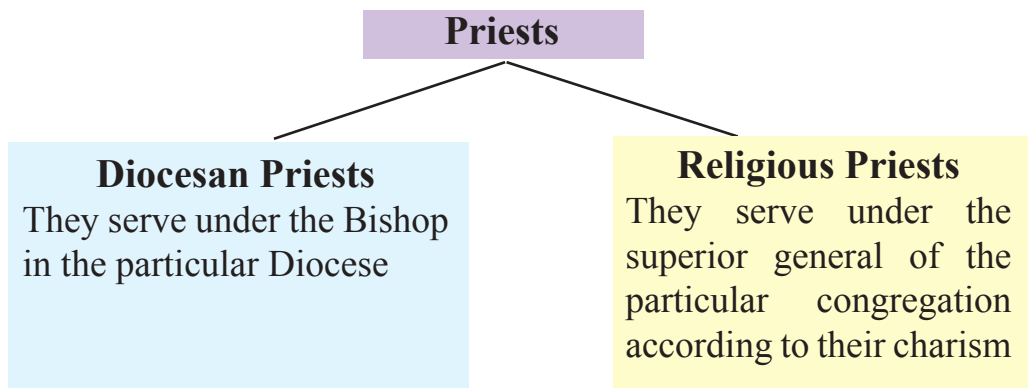


picture 11.10 - a Bishop

Responsibilities of a Bishop

- Pastoral care of the Diocese entrusted to him
- To be a teacher to the people of God
- Sanctifying the people of God
- Protecting the faith of the people
- Celebrating the liturgy
- Conferring all the sacraments
- Presiding at the marriage rite

Catholic priests can be divided into categories according to their life style



Promises and vows of a priest

Priests should take promises or vows. They are

- Diocesan Priests take two promises
 1. Obedience - They promise to obey their Bishop
 2. Celibacy - They promise to dedicate themselves for the kingdom without getting married
- Religious priests take three vows they are
 1. Obedience - They vow to obey their superiors
 2. Chastity - They vow to dedicate their chaste life for the benefit of the kingdom of God without getting married

3. Poverty - Cannot keep any possessions like Bank accounts, vehicles and Lands ect. All properties and assests will belong to the religious congregation.

There are some responsibilities and duties towards their priests who have dedicated their lives for us to lead us towards the kingdom of God.

- Praying for our priests
- Help them at liturgical services
- According to the fifth precept of the Catholic Church, faithful are obliged to assist with the material needs of the Church according to his her or own ability.
- Helping them to spread of God's kingdom

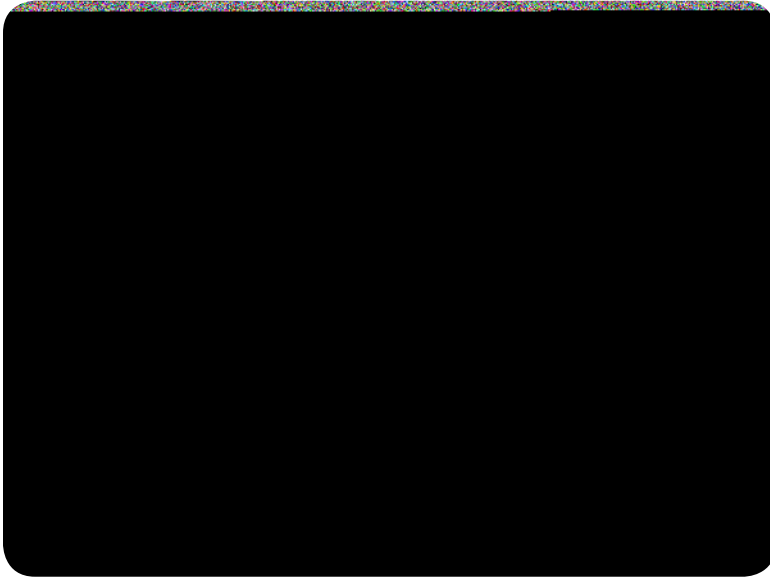
Activity

1. Prepare three seperate tables to emphasize the tasks of Deacon, Priest and Bishop.
2. Write one difference between the Lay vocation and the Religious vocation.
3. Write a prayer you can say for your priests.
4. Collect the information about your parish priest.
5. Write two duties you can do towards your parish priest.
6. Write a poem, appreciating the services of the parish priest.
7. What are the three vows taken by the Religious priests?



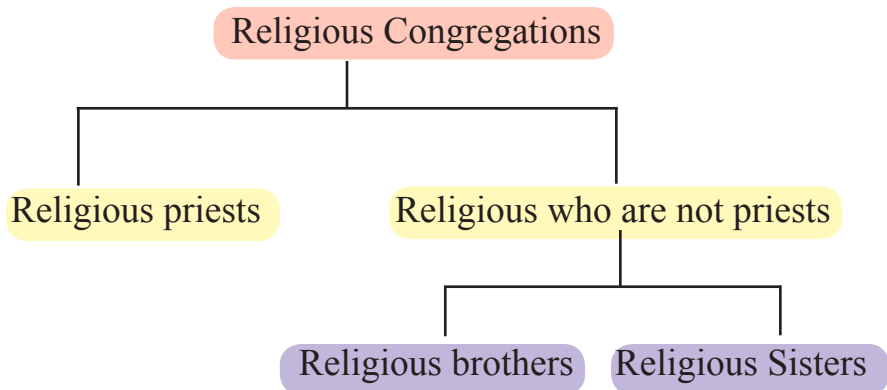
For Life

Pray daily for the priests who serve you.



picture 12.1 - Religious

Religious Life is a life totally consecrated to God. It is a special vocation from God. Religious are called to follow Jesus, to love God above everything else, to be a sign of the glory of God's Kingdom. The Holy Spirit guides and inspires them in this commitment.



Religious Congregations of Priests.

Priests who belong to Religious Congregations receive the sacrament of Holy Orders. Hence, they can celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. They live according to the Constitutions of the Order and are under a Superior. They try to live so as to proclaim God's Kingdom on earth.

These are some of the priests' religious congregations:

- Oblates of Mary Immaculate - OMI
- Jesuits- SJ
- Sylvestro Benedictines- OSB
- Blessed Sacrament Congregation- SSS
- Franciscans' TOR
- Claretian Missionaries CMF

Congregations of Religious who are not priests.

These are Religious Brothers & Sisters. They can distribute Holy Communion

Examples of Religious Brothers:

- Marist Brothers FMS
- Franciscan Missionary Brothers CMSF
- De La Salle Brothers FSC
- Brothers of Charity FC

Examples of Religious Sisters:




- Holy Family Sisters
- Apostolic Carmelites
- Good Shepherd Sisters
- Holy Angels Sisters
- Salvatorian Sisters
- Holy Cross Sisters (Menzingen)
- Dominican Sisters

All religious men and women belong to Congregations. They have consecrated/committed their lives to God. They take the vows of

1. Poverty
2. Obedience
3. Chastity

They take their First Vows after a period of formation in the Novitiate. Then after some years (depending on the Constitutions of the Congregation) they take their Final Vows or Final Commitment. All religious help to build up the Kingdom of God. Their most important fields of work are Education and Social Work. They also help in the building up of the Parish community. All who wish to enter the religious life have to receive an intense spiritual formation. Religious give their time, energy and talents to proclaim the Kingdom of God. They give witness to God's reign by the example of their lives.

Each Congregation/Institute works according to the objective or aim set out by their Founders/Foundresses. They continue the mission of Jesus Christ.

Name of Congregation	Fields of Service
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oblates of Mary Immaculate..  	Preaching the Good News to the poor, conducting Retreats, serving in parishes, hospital chaplaincy.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sylvestro Benedictines  	Education, Parish work, living together in communion for the greater glory of God.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marist Brothers  	Education, Training self-employment youth.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • De La Salle Brothers 	Education, Various services for youth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holy Family Sisters 	Education,Catechetics,Missionary work.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apostolic Carmel 	Education & Adult Education, Parish Work
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good Shepherd Sisters 	Various services for young women, School Education,helping in the building up of the life of girls orphaned or gone astray
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holy Angels Sisters 	Education, Orphanages,Children,Young Women
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salvatorian Sisters 	Missionary, work Helping the poor & the Destitute, Parish Work
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holy Cross Sisters 	Health Service, Estate workers, Catechetics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dominicans 	Education,Pre-Schools, Catechetics, Parish work

It is the duty of the laity to help these religious who work for them. Given below are some of the ways in which lay people can help the religious:

- Work with the religious in charitable services.
- Pray for the religious
- Respect them
- Help them in proclaiming the Kingdom of God.

You too can be called to the religious life. You can pray to receive such a vocation.

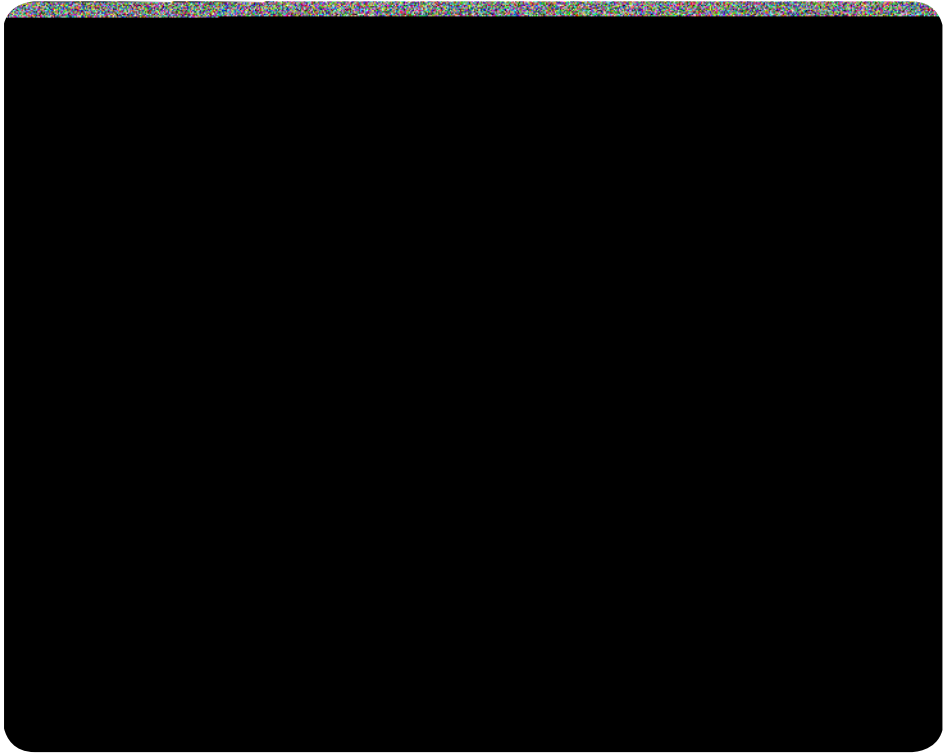
Activity

1. Write a creative essay in not more than 100 words. Include the following points:
Religious life is.....
Religious life is a call from God.
The sacredness of religious life
2. Mention four ways in which you can help religious in their services.



A thought for life

Pray for a vocation to the priesthood or the religious life.



picture 13.1 - The people who help us

The people in this picture are those who have chosen a profession according to their abilities. They serve the common people. They do these tasks as an employment. But, as Christians, we are called to commit ourselves to serve others for their good. We are thus called through the Sacrament of Baptism.

When we receive the Sacrament of Baptism the holy oils, with which we are anointed, make of us priests, prophets and kings. Through this anointing, we are called to the service of

1. (Royal) shepherds
2. Priests
3. Prophets

Thus, because of Baptism, every Christian receives the common vocation of the priesthood to bring Christ's redeeming love to the Christian community.

The common priesthood has a share in Christ's life as priest, shepherd and prophet. Except for Bishops, priests, clergy and religious, all the other people who have received Baptism, are called the lay people. The lay people proclaim God's kingdom in and through their daily tasks well performed. Those who have received the Sacrament of Holy Orders are officially known as priests.

As students of Grade 7, here are some of the services you can render, as those who belong to the common priesthood:

Prophet	Priest	Shepherd
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Witness to God's Word • Proclaim the truth • Read the Bible daily • Read the Word of God daily • Witness is righteousness and justice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray for each other • Be altar servers • Participate in liturgical services • Be an active member in the choir • Help the priest in the liturgical services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in religious groups with responsibility • Take leadership in the school and serve • Help in Sunday School activities • Organize social work to help the needy

The Groups & Committees which will help you to work with responsibility in the common priesthood:

Pray for each other

Share Christ's love with others

Lead an exemplary life.

Bear witness to fraternal life



**Society of
Holy Childhood**

Keeping the
Church clean

Serving at Holy
Mass

Serving at Mass

Assisting the priest
in liturgical services



**Altar Servers
Union**

Building up a
good personality

Improving your
capabilities to be
of service to
God's kingdom



Child heroes

Helping in
Shramadana

Work in unity

Make liturgy meaningful
by participating in choir

Be trained for choir



Choir

Help in readings at
Holy Mass

Using talents &
capabilities to praise God

Memorize this hymn :

Chorus We are God's children
 He has called us and chosen us
 Chosen us in Christ
 To work for the coming of His kingdom.

1. God gives us the Spirit of Christ
 That Christ may be wherever we are.
2. God gives us the Spirit of Christ
 That we may bring Good News to all.
3. God gives us the Spirit of Christ
 That we may spread His Kingdom of peace.
4. God gives us the Spirit of Christ
 That we may bring his justice to all.

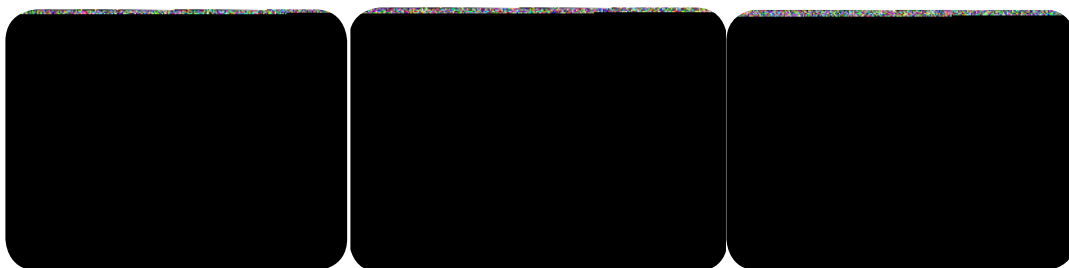
Activity

1. What are your responsibilities in the common priesthood ?
 What active group in your parish will you choose to put
 them into practice ?
2. Give six points as to how you will work in accomplishing
 your role in the common priesthood.
3. Choose one of the groups or committees in your parish
 which you would like to join. Why do you like that
 committee or group? Give reasons.



A thought for life

Join the parish childrens' groups or clubs
and serve in them.



picture 14.1 - Administering the Sacrament of Matrimony

In the above images you can see how the sacrament of Matrimony is administered. It is given in the Church. It is a social sacrament. It is a union blessed by God at the very beginning of creation. It is clear in this text from the Holy Bible:

The Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helpmate.' (Genesis 2:18)

Matrimony is a Sacrament administered in the presence of the Lord. God blesses the couple who will be united in Holy Matrimony.

Matrimony is a covenant. The covenant is an union in love. Hence the couple getting married should live together in love and cooperation. There are two parties in a covenant. They are the bride and the groom. There must be witnesses in a covenant. Here it is the

priest → official witness of the Church → relatives, friends and well-wishers present who represent the society. Two responsible witnesses from these will sign officially.

Signs of a Christian marriage;

1. Unity.

What is suggested here is that one man can marry only one woman and one woman can marry only one man. The married couple shares their joys and sorrows with one another and they live their lifetime in love and co-existence.

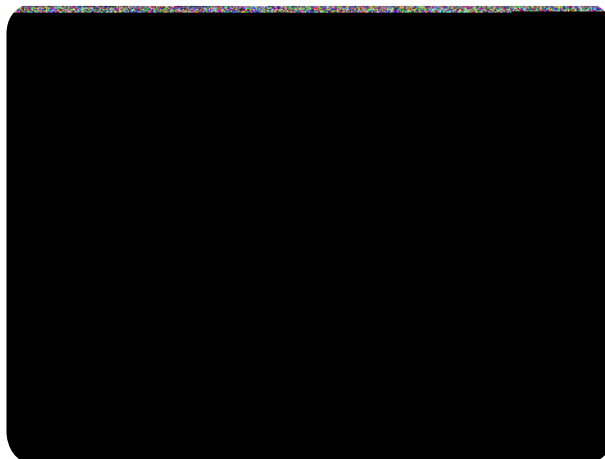
2. Continuity.

The married couple must live their entire lifetime until death, together. Divorce is not permitted in a Christian marriage. The quotation from the Bible given below confirms it:

“So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.”

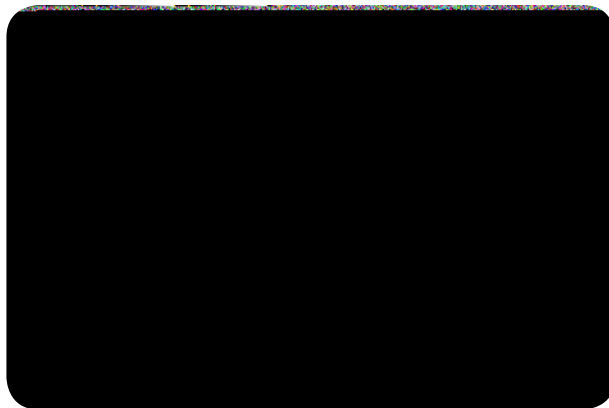
(Matth 19:6)

The responsibilities of parents towards their children:



picture 14.2 - Providing education to the child

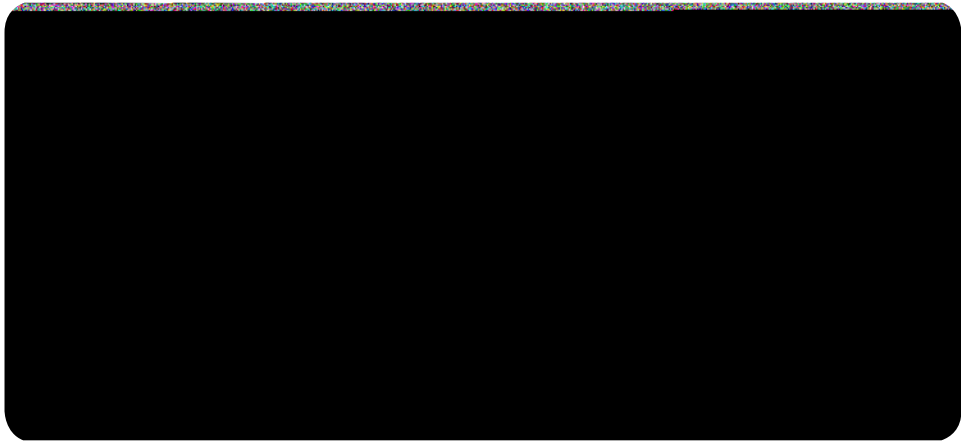
- Provide love, protection and nourishment for children.
- Fulfil bodily, mental and spiritual needs for children.
- Provide the reception of the Sacraments at the due age for children.
- Bring up children in Christian faith.
- Provide a sound education for children.
- See that the children are admitted to schools which provide Christianity (RC) as a subject.
- Provide education in a Catholic environment for children.
- Bring up children who fulfil their responsibilities consciously.
- Bring up children who will live as good citizens.



picture 14.3 - Aged mother

- Respecting and obeying your parents.
- Helping parents with their work.
- Helping parents in times of sadness and sickness.
- Caring for your aged parents.
- Looking after your younger brothers & sisters.
- Doing your best to have a good education.
- Always trying to please your parents.
- Living in peace & harmony with your siblings.

A Christian family can take example from the Holy Family of Nazareth



picture 14.4 -The Holy Family of Nazareth

1. At the Annunciation Mary said: “Be it done to me according to thy Word.” In the same way, every member of the family should accept the will of God.
2. Just as Mary, though she was the Mother of God, visited her cousin Elizabeth, we must help others.
3. St. Joseph showed care & concern for the family. Sacrificing his comfort and even sleep, he took the mother and child to place of safety.
4. At the Presentation, Joseph and Mary took the Child Jesus to the temple to consecrate Him to the Lord. By obeying the law they lived an exemplary life.
5. When Jesus was lost in the temple, Mary & Joseph showed how they loved Jesus, by searching for Him until they found Him.
6. Even though Jesus was the Son of God, He obeyed His parents.
7. Jesus grew in age and wisdom. A child should learn well, behave well and show how they fulfil the wishes of their parents. They must earn the praises of society.
8. The event at the wedding feast at Cana shows how Jesus obeys His mother and how the Holy Family helped others.

9. Mary stood at the foot of the Cross when Jesus was dying. It shows how and when a member of the family is in difficulty, we must be with them and comfort them.
10. When Jesus was dying on the cross, he gave His Mother to John, the beloved disciple. In the same way, Jesus reminds us that we must provide and care for our parents when they grow old.

Taking the Holy Family as our example, we must live in obeying God's will and according to His plan for us.

Activity

1. Taking the facts given about the Sacrament of Matrimony prepare a letter for a wall newspaper.
2. What are the examples that a Christian family can take from the life of the Holy Family? Give four examples.
3. Mention five ways of living the examples taken from the life of the Holy Family.
4. Mention five ways in which you can help your parents in their work.



A thought for life

Let the virtues and good works of the Holy Family nourish you.

picture 15.1 - Respecting parents

1. I thank my God,
Each time I think of you mum.
And when I pray for you,
I pray with joy.
2. I thank my God,
Each time I think of you dad
And when I pray for you,
I pray with joy.
3. I thank my God
Each time I think of you both.
And when I pray for you,
I pray with joy.

- Teacher: What did you feel when you were singing this hymn ?
- Nirmal: That we must pray to God for our parents.
- Rebecca: Our parents love us a lot. So, we must also love our parents much. We must also obey them. Isn't that so, teacher ?
- Teacher: Yes, children. You are quite correct. The two most precious gifts that we received from God, are our life and our faith, and both of our parents. That is why, we must love God first and then love and respect our parents.
- Rebecca: Teacher, doesn't the fourth commandment of the ten commandments also tell us that we must respect our parents?
- Teacher: Yes Rebecca. We can divide the ten commandments into two main parts. The first part tells us how we must worship God. The second part tells us how we must love our neighbour. So, in the second part, the first thing we are told is, that we must love and respect our parents. Now do you understand how important this commandment is ?
- Nirmal: Teacher, one day our Father told us in a sermon, that according to the fourth commandment just as we love our parents we must also love and respect our Church leaders, our teachers, our elders and the leaders of our country.
- Teacher: You are correct, Nirmal. The fourth commandment teaches us that we must obey and respect all these persons. So children, from today onwards, in the home, in the school, in the Church and in society, try to live the fourth commandment in loving and respecting them.

From this dialogue, we can see clearly the meaning of the fourth commandment to love and respect our parents. Also, we see many occasions in society, when this commandment is not kept. So, when you see such instances, try to help them to see that it is wrong. It is your responsibility to help them to live as God's children. In the table below, you will see what your duties are in the fourth commandment to live as a Christian. Try to live these in your life.

Our duties towards our parents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Obedience and respect to them ★ Helping in the household work ★ Trying to understand and accept the needs and discomforts of the home. ★ Helping parents with their problems and sicknesses. ★ To care for our parents in their old age and to make them happy. ★ Pray daily for our parents.
Our duties towards priests and religious.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Respect and obey them. ★ Helping the parish priests. ★ Working and helping in the lay apostolates in the parish. ★ Take an active part in the liturgical services of the parish.
Our duties to the School.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Respect and obey principals, teachers, prefects. ★ Fulfil as best as we can, our duties and responsibilities to the school. ★ Know the rules and regulations of the school and observe them. ★ Use carefully our class text books, library books, other books and materials of the school.

Our duties towards our country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Appreciate and respect the leaders of the country ★ Pray for them ★ Protect public & common property ★ Use natural resources economically and carefully ★ Obey the civil law
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My promise to live the fourth commandment.

I will obey, love, respect my parents, priests, religious, teachers, elders and leaders. On behalf of them all, and my parish, my school, my motherland, I promise from my young days to fulfil my obligations faithfully and totally.

Activity

1. Write five guidelines from the fourth commandment.
2. Prepare a wall newspaper under the heading “Let us care for our parents.” for your classroom.

A thought for life

- ★ Visit an elder's home with your teacher or a member of your family. Speak with fathers and mothers and listen to them there.
- ★ Get into the habit of paying obeisance to your parents daily before you leave the house.

16 Do Not Give False Witness

Hiran was a twenty - year old boy, who had ruined his educational career. Even during his school days he had got into the habit of doing corrupt actions. He began to feel very much that he needed money for these activities. He would do anything to have some money.

He got hold of kidney patients and other very ill people and put them into a van, took them to distant places and collected money by exposing them to people. Sometimes even if there were no patients, he would hire medical reports of sick people and show them in different villages and collect money. For some time Hiran went about like a beggar. Then one day because of his cunning actions even without his being aware he fell into the hands of the police. Hiran, who cheated so many people, was unable to cheat the police.

(Taken from a true story which appeared in the daily paper 'Lankadeepa' of 21.12.2014)

“To believe in something, and not to live it, is dishonest.”

“Honesty is the best policy.” These sayings show us the value of honesty. Society respects and values people who tell the truth. Society rejects people who lead double lives. The eighth commandment of the ten commandments tells us to speak the truth and to live the truth. Also through our baptismal vocation we are called to follow the God of truthfulness and to live a life of honesty.

The Holy Bible tells us that lying is a serious sin. Ananias and Saphira told a lie and they had a sudden death. (Acts 5:1-11). The eighth commandment is:

“You shall not give false testimony against your neighbour.”
(Exodus 20:16)

“You shall not give false testimony against your neighbour.”
(Deut 5:20)

This commandment teaches us that we must not give false witness against our neighbour. Also we cannot break promises we have made. It also reminds us that if we made a promise to God we must fulfil it.

In this text, Jesus is telling the Pharisees that what defiles a man is telling lies.

“What goes into someone’s mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them. But whatever comes out of the mouth comes from the heart, and it is this that makes someone unclean. For from the heart come evil intentions: murder, adultery, fornication, theft, perjury, slander. These are the things that make a person unclean.”

(Matth 15:10-20)

This text from the Holy Bible shows us how we are made to give false witness. This type of 'thoughts' can influence us. These are evil intentions that come from Satan. The text below tells us this.

You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

(John 8:44)

Also, St. Paul, in his letter to the Ephesians, advises us not to tell lies but to speak the truth.

Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbour, for we are all members of one body.

(Ephesians 4:25)

We are told in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, that it is against the eighth commandment to falsify the truth in our relationships with our neighbour. Also if we are to witness to the great God of Truth, we must be honest in our words and actions, and follow the law of moral behaviour in our conscience.

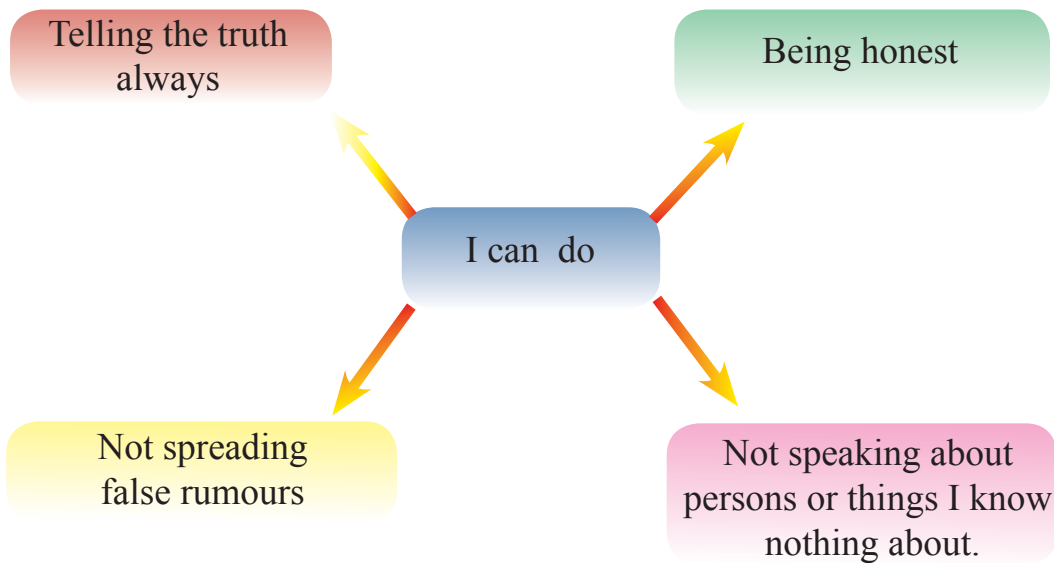
The eighth commandment forbids misrepresenting the truth in our relations with others. This moral prescription flows from the vocation of the holy people to bear witness to their God who is the truth and wills the truth. Offenses against the truth express by word or deed a refusal to commit oneself to moral uprightness: they are fundamental infidelities to God and, in this sense, they undermine the foundations of the covenant.

(CCC. No. 2464)

The conscience is God's voice.
Always listen to your conscience
and live.

Hence, through our Baptismal calling let us accept God as our Father and let us commit ourselves to create a society that respects the truth.

You can do much to build up a society that respects the truth.



Activity

Speak to your parents about the ways in which you can build up a society that respects and practises truthfulness and then fill the following table.

What I can do at home.	What I can do in school.	What I can do in the parish.	What I can do in society.
1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5

A thought for life

Speak the truth always. Live accordingly.

Dear son/daughter, won't you feel sad if you had something you valued much and you lost it? Think for a moment. If you steal something from another won't they too feel the same as you felt? As children of God, from your young days, try to obey the seventh commandment. The seventh commandment is: "Do not

steal." Trying to steal what belongs to another. Also causing damage to things that belong to another. These are forbidden by the seventh commandment. So, avoid stealing what belongs to others even for fun, as a joke or for your pleasure.

In our daily life we can have many a problem where we need money and we do not have it. On these occasions we should not steal what belongs to another. We must try to control ourselves and try to live honestly. Also practicing justice will help us to protect the rights of others and to give them what rightly belongs to them. Then it will be easy for us to live the seventh commandment.

When you borrow something from another, try to return it as soon as you can. If you pick up something that does not belong to you try to give it back to the owner as soon as you can. Or, hand it over to a person in charge, e. g. the principal, a teacher. Jesus praised Zacchaeus for promising to return what he had stolen. "If I have taken something from another unjustly, I promise to return it four times more." (Luke 19:8). Zacchaeus willingly paid back what he had stolen. You too can be a child of God, if you have done something wrong, by trying to put it right.

I will love all that belong to me.

likewise →

I will value and protect all that belong to others.

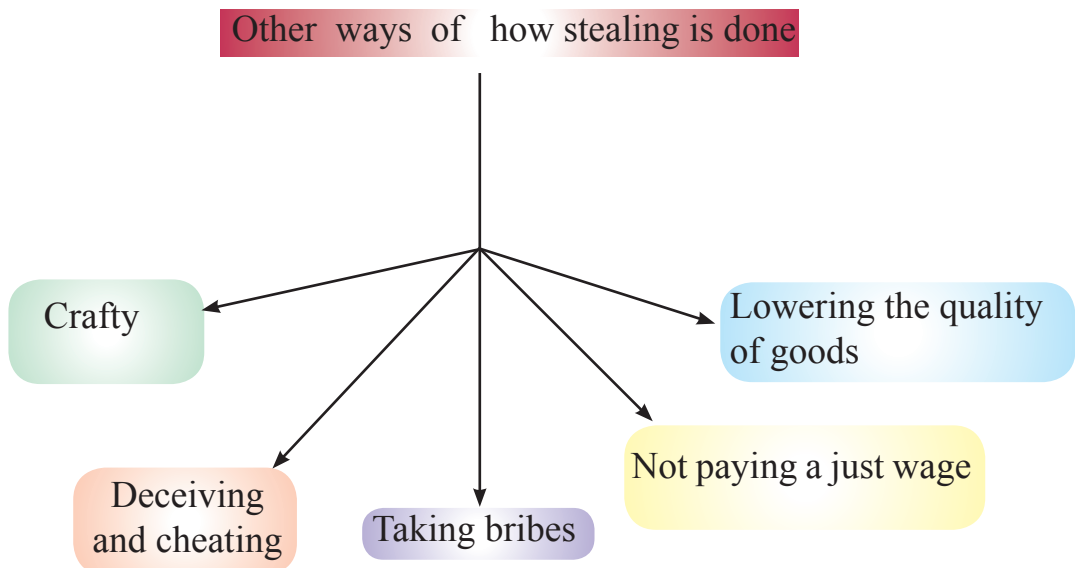
So, we must receive property, valuables, goods, money by

- ★ working honestly
- ★ buying
- ★ exchanging
- ★ gifts
- ★ inheriting

If we own property, valuables, money by any other means it is a grave sin. We reject being children of God.

What is forbidden by this commandment;

- ★ Stealing.
- ★ Taking by force
- ★ Unjust distribution
- ★ Destroying other's property



God is the owner of all
property

Thus, by the seventh commandment we are called to protect God's treasures. As children of God and accepting God's will, we must use with care the goods and property entrusted to us. We must not collect goods by cheating. We must not destroy or damage goods which belong to others.

Now, can you remember your responsibilities?

Activity

1. Name four means of obtaining goods justly.
2. Name four actions forbidden by the fourth commandment.
3. Write an essay of not more than 50 words on the topic:
What can I do to obey the seventh commandment?



A thought for life.

Just as you make an effort to protect your belongings, also make an effort to protect the belongings of others.

18 Do Not Covet Your Neighbour's Goods

So, there is a connection by nature that man shows a liking, an attachment, to what is pleasing to him/her.

e. g. A longing for tasty and appetizing food.

A longing for fine clothes.

Likes to live in a spacious and comfortable house.

Likes to own a luxury vehicle.

Because of this attachment, liking and willingness, man wants to own certain things. Sometimes one wants and shows a longing to have even what belongs to others. They can even have a longing to possess these things, to envy others. Coveting others' goods is against the tenth commandment. If these envious thoughts draw one to steal, it is against the seventh commandment. The seventh commandment forbids one to steal. The tenth commandment forbids covetousness which draws one to steal. This is also a sin.

The indigenous Red Indians of America showed the leaders of America how envying others' land can be wrong. Seattle in his speech showed how covetousness is against the seventh and the tenth commandments.

Noble leader of Washington,

You have informed us that you wish to buy our land. You have also showed us your friendship and goodwill. If we do not agree to sell our land the white man will come with his gun and take our land by force.

So, one must be happy with what one has and not covet the goods of others. The Catholic Catechism tells us this:

These commandments forbid us to unjustly desire or own or to be jealous of the goods of others.

(CCC 300)

The tenth commandment teaches us to be content with what we have. It forbids us to unjustly own others' goods, to keep such goods, to have a desire or to be jealous of others' possessions. It also forbids us to be jealous of the success of others. A man who lives in a hut sees the luxurious mansion just in front of his home. He is not jealous of him. He does not envy him. He rejoices in their good fortune. Such a man is a true noble human.

But, getting what belongs to others by just means is not forbidden by this commandment. (CCC 2537) For example, Buying a television set from the shop.

The first thought that incites a person to sin, is envy. The prophet Micah shows us how this envious thought can turn into action and how it can alienate us from God, from our neighbour and from our brother.

Woe to those who plan iniquity, to those who plot evil on their beds! At morning's light they carry it out because it is in their power to do it. They covet fields and seize them, and houses and take them. They defraud people of their homes. They rob them of their inheritance.

(Micah 2:1-2)

The universe is God's creation. God is the owner of His creation. The catechism of the Catholic church teaches us that we must be aware of this fact and live in an attitude of detachment.

Jealousy is a sin. It is born when we begin to covet others' goods. It brings in us sadness and regret. But if we live content with what we have we will be happy.

We have received all from God. We cannot live in this world forever. So, in the short time that we spend on this earth, let us live thanking and praising God for all He has given us. This commandment teaches us this.

We have to be aware as children of God that we must commit ourselves and take the responsibility to safeguard the property of others.

What we must do to live the tenth commandment:

- ★ Be content with what you have.
- ★ Do not try to own others' goods.
- ★ In buying and selling, be just.
- ★ Work honestly for the wages you receive.
- ★ You must return what you have borrowed from others.
- ★ When you find something that belongs to another, return it to the owner.
- ★ When others do well and succeed, do not be jealous of them, but rejoice with them.

Activity

1. "Do not covet others' goods." Write an essay of not more than 75 words on this subject.



A thought for
Happy with what we
have received.

During the time of His Holiness Pope Pius V, threats were being directed to the Catholic Church by the Turkish people. So he asked the European people to take action to protect the Church. As a response to the Pope's appeal they prepared an army. But they did not have enough training in war to be able to fight the enemy. On the day of the battle

picture 19.1 - Rosary

they went to fight while saying the Rosary devoutly. During this war, the Pope invited all the people of Europe to join in the recitation of the Rosary. There was a procession of people reciting the Rosary.

At the Battle of Lepanto they were able to defeat the Turkish army. If the Turkish people won this war, then they could have invaded Italy and a Turkish Sultan would have become the head of the Roman Empire. This victory which took place on 7th October 1571 was because of the power of the Rosary. They all believed that.

Because of this victory, Pope Pius V, in 1573, declared the 7th October as "The Feast of our Lady of Victory." In 1573, Pope Gregory XIII, changed the feast of October 7th to "Our Lady of the Rosary." In 1716, Pope Clement XI declared that this feast be celebrated in the whole of the Catholic Church.

The Catholic Church has had many a blessing during troubled and decisive times, by reciting the Rosary. That is why the Catholic Church recommends the recital of the Rosary by the faithful.

The History of the Rosary

The devotion of the “Rosary” has a long history in the Church.

- ★ In about the third century A.D. the monks of the Eastern Church began the devotion of the Rosary.
- ★ In the year 1214 A.D. St. Dominic Gusman, a Spanish, introduced the devotion of the Rosary. The Rosary we recite today came from St. Dominic.

When we recite the Rosary we contemplate the mysteries of salvation. These are the Birth, Passion, Death and Ressurrection of Jesus Christ. As the Mission of Christ was left out in the above-mentioned mysteries, Pope John Paul II added the Luminous or Mysteries of Light.

Days	Mysteries
Monday, Saturday, Sundays of Advent & Christmas- tide.	Joyful <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Annunciation 2. The Visitation 3. The Birth of Jesus 4. The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple. 5. The Finding of Jesus in the Temple
Tuesdays, Fridays, Sundays of Lent	Sorrowful Mysteries <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Agony of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. 2. The Scourging of Jesus at the Pillar. 3. The Crowning of Jesus with Thorns. 4. Jesus Carries His Cross. 5. Jesus is Crucified and Dies.

Wednesdays, Sundays of Eastertide & Ordinary Sundays.	Glorious <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Resurrection of Jesus. 2. The Ascension of Jesus into Heaven. 3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit on Mary & the Apostles. 4. The Assumption of Mary into Heaven. 5. The Crowning of Mary in Heaven
Thursdays.	Luminous <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Baptism of Jesus. 2. The Miracle at Cana 3. The Proclamation of the Kingdom 4. The Transfiguration of Jesus 5. The Institution of the Eucharist.

The ordinary Rosary or the Rosary for the dead can be used. The prayers that are usually said at the Rosary can be used. It is very necessary to recite the Rosary daily as a family.

“If we wish to be united to Mary, our Mother, there is no better way than to recite the Rosary” says Pope John Paul II. So let us as a family recite the daily Rosary.

The ordinary Rosary (said daily)

- The sign of the cross.
- The Apostles Creed
- The Our Father
- Three Hail Marys

(Before each Hail Mary the following short prayers can be said also)

Before 1st Hail Mary

Most pure Mother of God, pray for us to God to increase our faith (Hail Mary).

Before 2nd Hail Mary

Most holy Mary, Mother of Jesus, pray for us before your Son Jesus, to increase our hope.

Before 3rd Hail Mary

Most Holy Mary, filled with the Holy Spirit, pray for us to grow in our love of God.

- Glory be to the Father.....
 - O my Jesus (Prayer of Fatima)
 - Meditation on the Mystery
 - Our Father.
 - Ten Hail Marys
 - Glory be to the Father.....
 - O my Jesus
 - Hail Holy Queen
 - Angelus
 - Litany
- } Follow the same pattern of prayer for the five mysteries.

Some of the litanies which may be used are:

- Litany of the Sacred Heart (e.g on Fridays)
- Litany of our Lady
- Litany of St. Anthony (e.g. Tuesdays)
- Litany of St. Sebastian
- Litany of St. Jude

Rosary for the Dead

May be said during the month of November, when a Christian dies or at the anniversary of a death.

- Glory be to the Father...
- On the cross: Sacred Heart of Jesus I believe in you.
- In place of the Our Father: O my God, I believe in You because you are the Truth. Because You fulfil Your promises I hope in You. Because You are compassionate and merciful I love You.
- **In place of the Hail Mary:**
Jesus, Mary --- Jesus, Mary, Joseph
- At the end of each decade:
Loving Heart of Jesus be my love. Loving heart of Mary, be my salvation
- **At the end**
Jesus, Mary, Joseph I offer you my heart and soul. Jesus, Mary, Joseph, assist me in my last agony. Jesus, Mary, Joseph, may I breathe forth my soul in your peace.
- Litany for the dead.

There is no better weapon to fight against the threats and challenges thrown to our Church today; also to the problems and difficulties in our personal lives. We must pray the Rosary daily as a family. Then we can be heirs to a family life filled with God's blessings.

Activity

1. Who introduced the devotion to the recital of the Rosary ?
2. Name the four types of mysteries that we meditate on when we say the Rosary.
3. Memorize these prayers and recite them before your subject teacher:
 - Hail Holy Queen
 - The Angelus
 - O my Jesus.....

A thought for Life

Memorize the prayers used when reciting the Rosary for the dead.

Jude: Mother.....the smell of milkrice...!!..milkrice for lunch ?

Mother: Did you forget son, that today we are hoisting the flag for the Church feast?

Jude: Oh yes... I nearly forgot! (to his sister) Akka, we can eat a lot of milkrice today.

Stella: Yes, you want only to eat...Mother this time for the Church feast and for the novena I want two dresses with the latest fashions.

Mother: A Church feast does not mean eating or dressing fashionably.

Both: Then, Mother?

Mother: Children, these are the days when we must come closer and closer to God. Also we, parishioners must all get together and pray to the Saint to whom the Church is dedicated. Like good children now get ready to go to Church.

Each year, in our various parishes the feasts of different Saints are commemorated. For example we can speak of Easter and Christmas. These feasts are celebrated universally and in Sri Lanka on the same day. Besides these there are special feasts for each Church. These are the feast days of the Saints to which the Church is consecrated. The parish priest celebrates this feast with the parishioners.

Reasons for celebrating Church feasts.

- To have a renewal in the spiritual life of parishioners
- To nourish our life with the Word of God.
- To thank the Saint of the parish for the many blessings and graces bestowed on the parish through the intercession of the particular Saint.
- To reflect on the life examples the Saint has left us and to model our lives accordingly.
- To entrust the future of the parish and the parishioners to the Saint of the parish.

The meaning of the hoisting of the flag:

picture 20.1 - of the hoisting of the flag

The feast of the patron Saint of the parish begins with the hoisting of the flag. When the first missionaries began their work in our country, there were not enough priests for the parishes. A priest came to the parish only once in many months or even only once a year. The priest then stayed

over in the parish for a week or two to see to the spiritual needs of the parishioners. The feast of the patron Saint of the parish was also celebrated then. The parishioners were made aware of the arrival of the priest by the hoisting of the flag.

Novenas

Once the flag was raised, the Novenas in preparation for the feast, began. The word “Novena” comes from the Latin word “Novem.” It means “Nine”. What it means is that for nine days the people prayed for special favours for themselves and for the parish, asking the Saint to intercede for them. After the raising of the flag, eight

days are for the novenas. On the ninth day Vespers is celebrated. This is an evening liturgical service celebrated with the priests. On the tenth day the feast is celebrated. This is the custom of the Catholic Church. The background for this period in the parish is the feast of Pentecost - the coming of the Holy Spirit. After the Ascension of Jesus the Apostles & Mary with about 120 followers of Jesus, were gathered in a room and were praying in preparation for the coming of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit descended on them on the tenth day. Like them, we too must pray during the preparation for the Church feast, to receive spiritual benefits for all. For that we must:

- participate in the daily Novenas.
- attend Holy Mass and receive Holy Communion.
- spend time for prayer more than on other days.
- make a good confession and have a spiritual renewal.
- participate at the Vespers and at the feast day Holy Mass.
- participate in the procession with devotion and piety.

The duties of the Parish priests are:

- to make the faithful aware that during the period of the Church feast they must give priority to their spiritual renewal.
- during the days of the Novenas choose appropriate texts and themes for preaching and reflection.
- to direct the faithful to participate fully in the daily Mass and other devotional celebrations.
- to direct the faithful to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation with true repentance.
- focusing on the needs of the times, to organise meritorious acts in the parish.

The Church feast is a time of special blessings for the people and the parish. Also it is an appropriate time to be grateful to God for the many blessings received. Hence, the faithful must remember

to make the Church feast truly a time of spiritual renewal and not make use of it just to show off. In a spirit of sharing to make of the Church feast a pleasant and joyful occasion for all.

Activity

1. What did the hoisting of the Church flag mean earlier, in the history of the Church in Sri Lanka ?
2. Explain the meaning of “Novena”.
3. Mention three ways in which you can make the annual Church feast a meaningful one.
4. Write a wall newspaper article about the Saint to whom your parish is dedicated. Take the following facts into consideration.
 - The name of the Saint to whom your parish is dedicated.
 - The date on which the Catholic Church celebrates the feast of this Saint.
 - The date on which your parish celebrates the feast.
 - Some facts about his/her life.
 - What examples can we take from his/her life?

A thought for life

Let us receive the sacrament of Reconciliation and participate in our Church feast.

Hymn:

1. My soul proclaims the Lord my God
My Spirit sings His praise
He looks on me, He fills me up
And gladness fills my days.
2. All nations now will share my joy
His gifts He has out poured
His little ones He has made great
I magnify the Lord.
3. His mercy is forever more
His name I praise again
His strong right arm
Puts down the proud and raises lowly ones.
4. He fills the hungry with good things
The rich He sends away
The promise made to Abraham
Is filled by Him each day.

The origin of this hymn is Luke; 1:46-55. It is known as the Magnificat. During the evening service or Vespers we reflect on this hymn of our Mother Mary.

Liturgy Of The Hours

picture 21.1 - Reciting the Liturgy of the Hours

Liturgy of the Hours is a liturgical celebration at certain hours of the day. It is a prayer of praise including the Psalms.

This type of prayer is not something new to our celebrations of prayers. It is a custom from ancient times. The prayer is based on the Bible. When the Jews prayed in the Synagogue, they used the Book of Psalms from the Bible. In these prayers an essential item was the use of the psalms.

In the olden times these prayers were said by the priests, religious and laity. Later as they became complex the laity abandoned these prayers. The priests and religious are bound to say these prayers daily.

According to the custom of the Jews, a feast began with the setting of the sun the previous evening with a prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours. In our Churches today, this service is known as Vespers. It is held on the eve of the feast. It is an evening service. The laity too participate in this service today.

We can name the liturgy of the hours as:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Morning prayer or Lauds | 3. Evening prayer/Vespers |
| 2. Prayer at noon | 4. Night prayer |

The programme for Vespers.

- Three hymns (two psalms and a canticle from the Bible)
- Scripture Reading
- Homily
- Magnificat. Mary's Song of Praise
- Apostles Creed or I Believe....
- Our Father or The Lord's Prayer
- Prayer
- Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

The evening Vespers ends with the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. We honour our Lord Jesus living in the sacred host. The Eucharist. We place all our needs before the living God. We must permit our Lord Jesus Christ to let His blessings flow into us. Hence, this moment is very important for us. We must receive this solemn blessing on our knees. Also when the Blessed Sacrament is exposed on the altar in the monstrance we must genuflect on both knees and pay homage to Jesus.

Besides the evening Vespers, Benediction can also be given on;

- the first Thursday or Friday of each month.
- the feast of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ or Corpus Christi.
- Retreats.
- the Day of the Sick at Tewatta.

The Liturgy of the Hours is a prayer of praise to the Creator, God our Father. We can participate in the celebrations by joining the parish priests in the preparation for vespers, helping to keep the Church and the premises clean and tidy. Also by joining in the services with great devotion and piety. It is our duty as Christians.

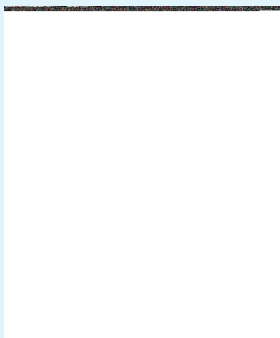
Activity

1. Explain why these services are known as the “Liturgy of the Hours.”
2. What is the book that is mostly used in the Liturgy of the Hours ?
3. What is the occasion when we as the lay people must participate in the Liturgy of the Hours ?
4. Name three occasions when Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament can be given.

A thought for life

Let us thank and praise God our Father for every blessing He gives us.

*The Annual Pilgrimage of the Way of the
Cross of the Parish*



Come, let us as children of
the same family, reflect on the
Passion of our Lord Jesus
Christ

Place: The Calvary Shrine at Hiniduma.
Date: February 25th
Departure Parish: 4.00 a.m.
from Hiniduma: 4.30 p.m.
Cost of Journey: Rs. 300/= per person

Please note:

As the number of seats are limited, kindly pay your money
and reserve the seats before 11th February.

It is clear that the purpose of this pilgrimage is to make the
Way of the Cross. The Way of the Cross is a devotion where we
meditate on the sufferings and death of Jesus.

The history of the Way of the Cross

As it is mentioned in the tradition of the Church, Mary our Mother
accompanied our Lord Jesus Christ on His Way of the Cross.
It is mentioned that after Emperor Constantine gave Christians
the freedom to follow their religion, the important places of Jesus'

way of the cross were marked. Christians made their way of the cross by following these places. They had to go to the Holy Land (Palestine) for this. But, after the 5th century, various countries of the world built their own calvaries and stations for the way of the cross of Jesus.

The Stations of the Way of the Cross

During the devotion of the Way of the Cross we commemorate the Passion of Jesus from the condemnation to death by Pilate until He was laid in the tomb. It is made up of 14 Stations.

First Station

Jesus is condemned to death

Third Station

Jesus falls the first time.

Second Station

Jesus carries His cross

Fourth Station

Jesus meets His afflicted Mother

Fifth Station

Simon of Cyrene helps
Jesus to carry His cross

Seventh Station

Jesus falls the second time

Ninth Station

Jesus falls the third time

Sixth Station

Veronica wipes the face of
Jesus

Eighth Station

The Women of Jerusalem
weep for Jesus

Tenth Station

Jesus is stripped of His
garments

Eleventh Station

Jesus is nailed to the Cross

Twelfth Station

Jesus dies on the cross.

Thirteenth Station

Jesus is taken down from the cross
and placed in the arms of His Mother.

Fourteenth Station

Jesus is placed in the
tomb.

The Way of the Cross is made like this

- Name the Station. e. g. 1st Station.
- Verse: We adore Thee O Christ and we bless Thee.
- Response: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
- Reflection.
- Lord's prayer, Hail Mary, Glory be...
- Prayer

- Prayer: Have mercy on us Lord,
- Response : Have mercy on us.
- Verse: May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.
- Response: Amen.
- Hymn: At the cross her station keeping
Stood the holy Mother weeping
Close to Jesus to the last.

We recall the painful way of the cross of Jesus. We must participate in this devotion with great piety and in prayer. We must try to share in the sufferings of Jesus. We can make the Way of the Cross on Fridays in Lent or on any day. Meditating on the sufferings of Jesus helps us to bear our little pains and aches meaningfully and joyfully for the sake of Jesus.

Activity

1. What do we recall in the Way of the Cross ?
2. What is the historical background to this devotion ?
3. Explain how one makes the Way of the Cross.

A thought for life

During the season of Lent, we must make the Way of the Cross by ourselves or in a group as often as possible.

Among the many devotions in the Catholic Church, the Holy Hour occupies an important place. It is to spend about an hour before the Blessed Sacrament or in any quiet place. It can be done anywhere. The main thing is to reflect or meditate and spend the time in prayer.

picture 23.1 - Adoration before the
Blessed Sacrament.

The history of the Holy Hour.

In 1673 A.D. St. Margaret Mary Alcoque had a vision where she was invited by Jesus to be part of His sufferings and agony at Gethsamane. She accepted the invitation and started to pray for an hour meditating on the Passion of Jesus. So, it is a devotion begun by Jesus Himself through St. Margaret Mary. We recall the plea made by Jesus to His Apostles in His sufferings at Gethsamane: “Could you not watch one hour with me?” (Matthew 26:40).

The occasions when we can pray the Holy Hour

- On Holy Thursday.
- On Thursday or Friday weekly.
- When celebrating the feast of Corpus Christi/ the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.
- As a Parish group or as a family or for a special need. This is a devotion can be done at any time.

Blessed Mother Theresa made the Holy Hour daily and she recommended it for the Sisters of her Congregation.

This devotion can be done individually or in a group. There are different ways in which it can be done:

- In the Church or in chapels before the Blessed Sacrament exposed.
- In the home, assembled as a family.

The purpose of the Holy Hour.

- To share in the sufferings of Jesus at Gethsamane.
- For a special need.
- When a solution to a problem cannot be found to seek the assistance of Jesus.

The traditional way of making the Holy Hour.

This is the accepted way:

- Begin with a hymn.
- Introductory prayer
- 1st Quarter - prayer and reflection. Silence
- 2nd Quarter - prayer and reflection. Silence
- Hymn
- 3rd Quarter - prayer and reflection. Silence
- 4th Quarter - prayer and reflection. Silence
- Hymn
- Final prayer.
- Hymn.

Prayers, division of time can be adjusted by the leader of the prayer group. Our duty as Christians is to participate with devotion and prayerfully each time this devotion is made as a family or as a community.

Activity

1. What was the invitation or the call given to St. Margaret Mary through vision?
2. Name two occasions on which you can make a Holy Hour.
3. Name two purposes for making the Holy Hour.
4. On what do we reflect when we make the Holy Hour?

A thought for life.

Use the prayers, hymns of the Holy Hour in an appropriate manner.

24 Adoration Of The Holy Eucharist and Procession

picture 24.1 - The Monstrance

We, as Catholics believe that Jesus is truly present in the most Blessed Sacrament. This has been confirmed by a miracle. We must give the Eucharist our highest veneration. That is why, whenever it is possible, we go to the Church and adore the Blessed Sacrament. There are other reasons why we adore the Blessed Sacrament.

- To worship the living Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament.
- To create a deep relationship with Jesus through prayer.
- To ask for our spiritual and material needs.
- To place our successes and failures, our joys and pains before Him.
- To thank Jesus for all blessings and graces received.

When we can visit Jesus

- Whenever it is possible for us.
- When the Blessed Sacrament is exposed in the Church.
- When there is Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

- Whenever we pass by the Church.
- When we place our needs before Him.

Whenever we venerate the Blessed Sacrament we can receive a renewal in our spiritual life.

The procession of the Blessed Sacrament

The procession of the Blessed Sacrament is held to offer Jesus our adoration and praise and to receive His blessings. Another purpose of the procession is to invoke blessings on the town/village we are and on the people. We should help to organize this procession which has such good purposes. We can do the following:

- Help to decorate the chariot in which the Blessed Sacrament will be taken in procession.
- Participate in the hymns and the prayers during the procession.
- Not indulge in unnecessary talking while in the procession.
- Walk in twos or threes in an organized manner.
- Be dressed simply and modestly.

As the Blessed Sacrament is kept in our Church we must not disrespect it or behave badly in any way. Hence

- Be silent when inside the Church.
- Genuflect and pay homage to the Eucharistic Lord.
- Walk modestly when you are inside the Church.

Activity

1. Give three occasions when, as Catholics, we should visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.
2. Mention three ways in which you can help when organizing the procession of the Blessed Sacrament.
3. Mention three ways of how you should behave when the Blessed Sacrament is reserved in the Church.



A thought for life

Visit Jesus when you pass by a Church.



Dear Devotees,

You have come to this sacred place of pilgrimage because you look forward to a spiritual renewal. So,

- All members of your family must receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Participate fully in the Holy Mass and receive the Holy Eucharist.(Communion).
- Participate without fail in all devotions.
- Be well-mannered.
- Obey the common rules and regulations of this place.
- Be dressed modestly.
- Use the common resources economically and carefully.
- Avoid drinking alcohol and amusements.
- Work in unity with others.
- Return to your parish, your village and to your family as a renewed person.

God bless you all !
Administrator of the Shrine.

This notice shows that a place of pilgrimage is sacred; also how we should behave and act in such a place.

In the face of one's daily needs, responsibilities, and challenges those who are faced with difficulties, make a pilgrimage seeking for spiritual renewal and consolation. These journeys remind us of our pilgrimage to eternity. Also for those who wish for a renewal of life, this is an unique occasion through prayer.

The purpose of pilgrimages

- ★ To worship the one, true living God, as a family.
- ★ To offer thanks for graces received from God.
- ★ To place our spiritual and material needs before the Lord.
- ★ To visit places of pilgrimage.
- ★ To experience the mighty deeds of our Father in heaven.

The Shrine of Our Lady of Madhu

picture 25.1 - Madhu shrine

picture 25.2 - Madhu statue

During the persecution of the Church by the Dutch, the Catholics of Mannar had to face many difficulties. In the year 1670 A.D. about 20 devoted Catholic families left all their property and went to the Kandyan region which was under the Dutch authorities. They took with them on their journey a miraculous statue of our Lady which was kept in a Church in “Maanthai”. Arriving at a village known as 'Maradha Madhu' they spent their time there in

faith and prayer. Among about 700 people who had fled to Jaffna was a young lady known as Helena. She worked in the Kandyan king's office and got married to the Chief Officer there. With his help she built a Church consecrated to our Lady of Madhu in the Marada Madhu village.

Later, with the aid of the Oratorian Bishops and Rev. Fathers of the Congregation of St. Joseph Vaz the Madhu Shrine which we see today was built.

The Shrine of St. Anne at Talawila

picture 25.3 - Church of St. Anne

picture 25.4 - Statue St. Anne

During the latter half of the 18th century, a ship belonging to the European merchants, sank off the shores of Talawila. A statue of St. Anne had been in that ship. The people in that ship had prayed to St. Anne to save their lives. When they arrived on shore, deprived of all their belongings, they had no shelter except a Nuga tree. The merchant installed the statue in a hollow of the tree. Before leaving the place, the merchant made a vow to St. Anne. That is, if his trade was a success he would return and build a shrine dedicated to St. Anne. Then he arrived in Galle and his business was successful. He returned to the place and built a Church there. The Church

has developed into what we see today because of the miracles that have been worked through her intercession.

The Basilica of our Lady of Lanka

picture 25.5 - Basilica of our Lady of Lanka at Tewatte

picture 25.6 - Statue

During World War II, bombs were dropped in Colombo and Trincomalee by the Japanese. Archbishop John Mary Masson OMI who was the then Archbishop of Colombo made a vow at the Grotto of our Lady of Lourdes beside the small Church at Tewatte. He would erect a Basilica at Tewatte if our Lady saved our country from this dangerous situation. As the country was saved from the ravages of war, this vow was fulfilled by Archbishop Thomas Cardinal Cooray, in his name after obtaining permission from the Holy See a Basilica consecrated to Our Lady of Lanka was built at Tewatte.

The Church of Our Lady of Victory at Matara

picture 25.7 - Photo of church

picture 25.8 - Statue

Some fishermen at Weligama found a statue made of ashwood. It was the statue of “Our Lady of Victory of Matara.” It was 26 inches long. The statue was like Our Lady Queen of Heaven. They handed it over to the parish priest of Matara Church. It was found out that the statue was more than 400 years old. In 2004 this statue was washed away by the Tsunami. But it was recovered. Many miracles took place because of this statue. The feast is celebrated on the birthday of our Lady- September 8th. It is mentioned that the present Church was erected by Rev. Fr. A. Closet SJ in 1907.

The Holy Land

The country where Jesus was born, where he carried out His mission, where He suffered and died is referred to as the Holy Land. It is a place of pilgrimage for the Christians.

picture 25.9 - Holy Land

Padua

The relics of St. Antony of the Franciscans are interred in the Basilica at Padua in Italy. The Saint's tongue is found intact due to the fact that he always spoke the truth when he was sharing the Word of God.

picture 25.10 - Basilica at Padua

The relic of the tongue which has not decayed is placed in a casket and kept on the altar. His chin, lower jaw, the clothes that he used, his coffin are all preserved and kept for seeing and venerating by the people. Many devotees visit the shrine of St. Antony at Padua with faith and for favours.

Goa

St. Francis Xavier's undecayed body is preserved in the "Bomb Jesus" basilica in Goa. Many go there to see and also for a spiritual renewal. Another reason why it is popular is because it is the birth place of St. Joseph Vaz.

picture 25.11 - "Bomb Jesus" basilica in Goa

We can see that there are many places of pilgrimage in other countries. When we visit these places we must do so with awe and reverence in order to receive graces and blessings. It is also our responsibility.

Activity

1. Mention three reasons why we go on a pilgrimage.
2. Mention four actions we can perform to guard the sacredness of the place.
3. Give a reason to each as to why the Holy Land, Padua and Goa are places of pilgrimage.



A thought for life

Go on pilgrimages, not for pleasure and enjoyment, but for a spiritual renewal.