THE Wednesday WORD

Summer Holidays 2026
SHARING SUNDAY'S GOSPEL











Connecting Home, School and Parish

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Wednesday 15th July 2026

Good News for Families

1 Enjoy reading this Sunday's Gospel

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep, his enemy came and sowed darnel weeds among the wheat. When the shoots sprouted the weeds appeared as well. The servants wanted to pull up the weeds but, not wanting to risk damaging the wheat, they went to the owner and said, 'Do you want us to go and weed it out?' But the owner said, 'No, because when you take out the weeds you might pull up the wheat with them.' So the owner let them grow together until harvest time when the wheat could be separated from the weeds, and then the wheat could be gathered into his barn."



Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 19th July 2026 Matt. 13:24-30 (the 16th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)

Which words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? What does the picture make you think about? Now explore this Wednesday's word, which is **GROWING**.



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2 Wednesday's Word GROWING

"Ask and seek and your heart will grow big enough to receive God." *St Teresa of Calcutta*

What will the farmer do with the wheat? This Sunday's Gospel reminds us that the Kingdom of God is growing all around us. We live in a world where we see both good and bad and we can choose to be like the wheat or the weeds. We all make mistakes, but God is loving and patient and gives us time to grow into the people we were created to be. **Ask your child what the word 'growing' means to them (other than increasing in height). Tell your child how they've grown as a person (and in goodness) during this school year.**

"We cannot grow up by ourselves; rather, we journey and grow in a community, in a family." *Pope Francis (Pope from 2013-2025)*

Each new day is an opportunity to grow in God's goodness. Regularly praying together is a powerful way for the family to keep growing in love. Loving and following God makes us like the 'wheat' in this story. Throughout the summer holidays, what can we do to help the world to grow as God intends in these coming weeks? Perhaps we can: avoid doing wrong and always try to do what is right; try to be more patient with people around us; always try to forgive; say a prayer for someone who might have upset us; regularly share the gift of your smile with others; always try to be fair with others.

3

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for the people who help us to **grow** in your love and please help us to keep **growing** in goodness. Amen.

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER **ACROSS** OR **DOWN**

KINGDOM HEAVEN
SEED WEEDS
GROWING TOGETHER
GATHER WHEAT

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS **BACKWARDS** OR **DIAGONALLY**

H	T	N	E	V	A	E	H	E	H	T
V	A	G	T	N	G	K	N	I	K	V
H	E	A	S	D	E	E	W	G	I	D
E	H	T	D	N	T	M	V	W	N	T
A	W	H	G	R	O	W	I	N	G	D
V	S	E	E	D	G	H	G	H	D	R
E	K	R	G	D	E	E	V	N	O	E
N	V	N	E	G	T	A	H	W	M	H
H	I	E	R	E	H	T	E	G	O	T
K	S	D	W	E	E	D	S	D	N	A
G	N	I	W	O	R	G	T	H	W	G

Cross out the letters **u t r** in the 4 jumbled words to find 4 real words.

usotwerd stereud hueravten kirngudotm

The _____ of _____ may be compared to a man who _____ good _____ in his field.

Growing in goodness helps us to be happy together. As we grow, we can choose to be more like Jesus: patient, loving and full of forgiveness – with ourselves and others. We keep growing in goodness when we act upon what we learn about following Jesus.

Write a promise and then **draw** a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to ...

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Wednesday 22nd July 2026

Good News for Families

1 Enjoy reading the Gospel



Jesus said to the crowds that had gathered around him, "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure which has been hidden in a field. When someone finds the treasure, he hides it again and then he goes off filled with joy: he sells everything that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant who is looking for fine pearls. When he finds one pearl of really great value, he goes and sells everything that he has and buys that pearl."

Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 26th July 2026 - Matt. 13:44-52 (the 17th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)

Which words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? What does the picture make you think about? Enjoy exploring this Wednesday's word, which is **TREASURE**

2

"Whoever finds Jesus, finds a rich treasure." *Thomas à Kempis*

What did Jesus say the kingdom of heaven is like? In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus compares the joy of the kingdom of heaven to the joy of finding hidden treasure or valuable pearls. Ask your child what the word 'treasure' means to them. Then each of you talk about something that you own which you consider to be an important treasure in your life – something that you value a very great deal and would be very sad to lose, and say why. **Through this Gospel, we are reminded that no earthly treasure is as important as the treasure of our faith, our love for God and knowing of God's love for us.**

3

"Dear Friends, let us keep the faith we have received and which is our true treasure." *Pope Francis (Pope from 2013-2025)*

When we try to live as Jesus taught us, God's kingdom grows within our hearts: we discover we are loved and treasured by God our Father. This is a treasure beyond compare, more valuable than any earthly riches. It brings us joy and everlasting happiness. What are some ways in which we can bring a bit of 'heaven to earth' and share the treasure of God's love with others this week? Perhaps we can: write a kind letter to an elderly or distant relative or friend; as a family, make a telephone call to someone we know to be lonely or in hospital; donate to a charity; pray for someone in need.

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to have hearts that **treasure** you above all things, and to share the **treasure** of your love with others. Amen.

Write a promise and then **draw** a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to...

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Wednesday 29th July 2026

Good News for Families

1 Enjoy reading the Gospel



In the evening Jesus' disciples came to him and said, "This is a lonely place and it's late. Send the crowds away, so they can buy some food." Jesus said to them, "You give them something to eat." They said, "We don't have anything, except for five loaves and two fish." Jesus said, "Bring them here to me." He told the crowds to sit down. He took the five loaves and the two fish and looked up to heaven. He said the blessing, broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, who gave them to the crowds. There were over five thousand people. They all ate and were satisfied.

Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 2nd August 2026 - Matt. 14:13-21 (the 18th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)

Which words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? What does the picture make you think about? Enjoy exploring this Wednesday's words, which are **HOLY COMMUNION**

2

"If angels could be jealous of men, they would be so for one reason: Holy communion." *St Maximillian Kolbe*

Why couldn't the disciples feed the people? The gathering in this Sunday's Gospel wasn't just a huge, miraculous, open-air picnic. This was a sign of the Eucharist (Holy Communion) which Jesus would establish with his disciples at the Last Supper. Jesus is always with us but he is especially present in the Sacrament of Holy Communion – a sacred moment: we receive a gift from heaven – we receive Jesus. Ask your child what they know about Holy Communion. It may help your child if you tell them something that you know about Holy Communion.

3

"Jesus is the Bread of Life for our families."
Pope Francis (Pope from 2013-2025)

In this Sunday's Gospel, before he fed the 5000, Jesus looked up to heaven, said the blessing, broke the bread and then shared it. Today the priest does the same thing at Mass. Almost 2000 years have passed since Jesus cared for and fed thousands of people. Jesus cares for us just the same today and, through Holy Communion, spiritually feeds millions of people throughout the world. Why not ask God to increase your faith in Jesus' presence in the Eucharist (Holy Communion) and then say the 'Our Father' together?

For this week's final prayer, why not ask your child if they can remember the grace they say at school before their meals?

Write a promise and then **draw** a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to...

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Wednesday
5th August 2026

Good News for Families

1 Enjoy reading the Gospel



Jesus told his disciples to get into a boat and go across to the other side of the lake, while he went into the hills to pray. The boat was battered by waves and a strong wind. Then Jesus came, walking on the sea. The disciples were terrified. "It's a ghost!" they cried. Jesus said, "Courage! It is I. Do not be afraid." Peter said, "Lord, if it is you, tell me to come to you on the water." Jesus said, "Come!" So Peter started to walk on the water. But then he grew frightened and began to sink. "Lord, save me!" he cried. At once Jesus stretched out his hand, and caught him. "Man of little faith," Jesus said. "Why did you doubt?" As Jesus and Peter got into the boat the wind dropped. The others in the boat bowed down before Jesus and said, "Truly, you are the Son of God."

Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 9th August - Matt. 14:22-33 (the 19th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)

Which words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? What does the picture make you think about? Enjoy exploring this Wednesday's word, which is **BELIEVE**

2

"To believe means to put our lives in the hands of God, especially in our most difficult moments."

Pope Francis (Pope from 2013-2025)

After saving Peter from sinking, what did Jesus ask him? In the Gospel Jesus reveals the wonderful and extraordinary power he had received from his Father by walking on the water. For a while, Peter's belief was really tested. Jesus invited Peter to believe and he makes the same invitation to you and me. Belief in Jesus is a gift from God that greatly enriches our lives. Ask your child what the word 'believe' means to them, and what it means to 'believe' in Jesus.

3

The storm stopped when Jesus stepped into the boat. We can try to remember this Sunday's Gospel in times of trouble - when life feels 'stormy'. Even though, like Peter, we may sometimes have doubts, be assured that, when we do doubt, Jesus is still truly close to us and ready to help us to believe. How can we grow in our belief in Jesus? Perhaps we can: read about what Jesus did and said; sit quietly in prayer, asking God to help us grow in belief; try our best to live out Jesus' teachings and see the difference it makes to life.



Dear Lord Jesus, please help our **belief** in you to grow - remembering that we can always put our trust in you, especially if life feels 'stormy'. Amen.

Write a promise and then **draw** a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to...

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Wednesday
12th August 2026

Good News for Families

1 Enjoy reading the Gospel



Mary had been told by an angel that she was to give birth to a son named Jesus. When she heard that her cousin, Elizabeth, was also going to have a baby, she went as quickly as she could to visit her. Mary went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Elizabeth gave a loud cry and said to Mary, "Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? As soon as your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed are you for believing the promise made to you by the Lord." Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then went back home.

Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 16th August 2026 - Luke 1:39-56 (The Feast of the Assumption, Year A)

Which words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? What does the picture make you think about? Enjoy exploring this Wednesday's word, which is **VISITORS**

2

"God's will is that we welcome one another."

Pope Francis (Pope from 2013-2025)

What happened when Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting? In this Sunday's Gospel, even though Mary had many of her own preparations to make for the birth of Jesus, she still went out of her way to visit her elderly relative Elizabeth. Ask your child who they like to go and visit most. Tell your child about the people you like to visit and say why. When did your child last get a warm welcome and how did it make them feel? Who always makes them feel especially welcome and

3

As a family, think about people who visit your home. Each of you say who most fills you with joy when they call to visit you. How can you make visitors feel more welcome throughout the holidays? Is there someone that you can invite for a meal, or to play, and make them feel especially valued - maybe a relative who lives on their own, someone who may be lonely or maybe a friend from school? **This Sunday's Gospel contains some of the words that have become part of the prayer which we call the 'Hail Mary'. It's a great prayer to finish tonight's special time together.**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Write a promise and then **draw** a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to...

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Wednesday
19th August 2026

Good News for Families

1 Enjoy reading the Gospel



Jesus asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" They said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say the prophet Elijah or another one of the prophets." Then he said to them, "Who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered: "You are the Christ, Son of the living God." Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah: it is my Father in heaven who has revealed this to you. I now say to you that you are Peter, the Rock – and it is on this rock that I will build my Church. The gates of the underworld cannot stand against my Church. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, so that whatever you bind on earth will also be bound in heaven."

Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 23rd August - Matt. 16:13-20 (the 21st Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)

Which words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? What does the picture make you think about? Enjoy exploring this Wednesday's word, which is **CHURCH**

2 "The Church is called Catholic or universal because it has spread throughout the entire world, from one end of the earth to the other."

St. Cyril of Jerusalem

What did Jesus say he would build? Jesus gave St Peter the important task of leading the Church – a duty which is now undertaken by Pope Francis. Ask your child what the word 'church' means to them. 'Church' is the name given to the community of Christian believers. The word 'Catholic' means 'universal' – the Church is for everyone. The word 'church' can also be used to name the building where we meet to worship God together. **Each of you share a memorable experience that you have had of Church (perhaps attending a Wedding, a Baptism, Holy Communion or something else).**

3

Through his friends, Jesus established his Church on earth, which is a reminder of God's love for all people – that includes you and me too. A church building is a holy place, where many people can experience the peace and tranquility within. Each of you say what you think attracts people to Church. Perhaps it is: the community, hearing God's Word, silence, being strengthened spiritually, Holy Communion or something else? Come along to hear the Gospel and meet and greet your church family this Sunday. All are warmly invited.

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for establishing the **Church** to support, strengthen and guide us as we journey through life together. Amen.

Write a promise and then **draw** a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to...

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Wednesday
26th August 2026

Good News for Families

1 Enjoy reading the Gospel



Jesus began to tell his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem, and that there he would suffer and be put to death, but that on the third day he would be raised up. He also said, "Those who want to be followers of mine must deny themselves, take up their cross and follow me. Those who try to save their own life will lose it, but those who lose their life for my sake will find it. What does anyone gain who wins the whole world but loses their own life? When the Son of Man comes in the glory of his Father with his angels, he will reward each person according to what they have done."

Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 30th August - Matt. 16:21-27 (the 22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)

Which words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? What does the picture make you think about? Enjoy exploring this Wednesday's word, which is **SELFLESS**

2 "Christ leads us to go out from ourselves more and more, to give ourselves and to serve others."

Pope Francis (Pope from 2013-2025)

What will Jesus do when he returns? In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells his followers how to discover the real wealth of life – on earth and in the world to come. Life in all its fullness comes from following Jesus – from being selfless. Ask your child what the word 'selfless' means to them. Who are the most selfless people that your child knows – that is, people who put others' needs first? Why did they think of those people? It may help your child if you can talk about a historical figure or someone you know who can be described as selfless. What is it like to be in the company of a selfless person?

3

Selfless people make the world a much better place. Being 'selfless' is the opposite of being 'selfish'. It is about being very aware of others' needs or interests, and putting them before your own. The happiest people on earth are actually those who selflessly serve others. As a family, talk about how you can selflessly follow Jesus and serve others in this coming week, even in little ways. Perhaps you can: give extra help to your family around the house; give time or money where needed; resist pushing in and let others go first instead; be more generous in sharing with brothers, sisters and friends.

Dear Lord Jesus, please help us to be **selfless** – to use our lives to serve you and each other, even when that seems difficult. Amen.

Write a promise and then **draw** a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to...

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Wednesday 2nd September

Good News for Families

1 Enjoy reading this Sunday's Gospel

Jesus said to his disciples, "If your brother does something against you, point out his fault to him when the two of you are alone together. If he listens to you, then you have won your brother back. But if he does not listen to you, then you should take one or two others along with you, so that every word you say may be confirmed by them. If he still refuses to listen, tell the whole church community; and if he even refuses to listen to the Church, treat him as an outcast. I tell you truly, if two of you on earth agree what to ask for, then my Father in heaven will grant it. If two or three come together in my name, there I am with them."



Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 6th September. Matt. 18:15-20 (the 23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)

Which words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? What does the picture make you think about? Now enjoy exploring this Wednesday's word, which is **RECONCILIATION**



2 Wednesday's Word RECONCILIATION

"The Church has the mission to proclaim reconciliation."

St John Paul II

What does Jesus say is the first thing that we should do if someone upsets us? Sometimes we make mistakes and occasionally upset one another. The important thing is to overcome such upsets in a loving way and become friends again. This is also known as reconciliation. This Sunday's Gospel suggests ways of doing this peacefully and calmly. Ask your child who have been their special friends over the years, even if they have had misunderstandings. Tell your children about the special friendships you have had over the years. Each say what you think makes a lasting friendship?

In the Gospel, Jesus teaches us that we should always try hard to be reconciled – to heal relationships and to try to make friends again. Prayer is an important part of reconciliation. We can ask Jesus, anytime, to bring peace to a situation, and to guide us back to friendship. We can't always undo mistakes if we have done something wrong and upset someone, but we can always learn from our mistakes and try to make amends. **As a family, share ideas about how to be reconciled with someone if things go wrong. Perhaps we can; say sorry if we have done wrong; ask an adult to help us make friends again. Can you think of other ways?**

3

Dear Lord Jesus, help us always to be ready to make peace and to be **reconciled** with our friends, neighbours and with you - to live together in harmony and happiness. Amen.

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER **ACROSS** OR **DOWN**

- JESUS
- DISCIPLES
- BROTHER
- FAULT
- ALONE
- TOGETHER
- WIN
- BACK

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS **BACKWARDS** OR **DIAGONALLY**

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

Cross out the letters **c d m** in the 4 jumbled words to find 4 real words.

brocthedrm mycourd thcemnd cwodnm

If ____ ____ ____ ____ brother listens to you, ____ ____ ____ ____

you have ____ ____ ____ your ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ back.

DID YOU KNOW? The Church provides a wonderful way to be reconciled with God through the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession). Find out more from your local parish church.

Write a promise and then **draw** a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to ...

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WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SUMMER SPECIAL

Find the Wednesday Words in the Scripture Square

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER **ACROSS** OR **DOWN**

- [x] GROWING
- [ ] TREASURE
- [ ] COMMUNION
- [ ] BELIEVE
- [ ] VISITORS
- [ ] CHURCH
- [ ] SELFLESS
- [ ] RECONCILIATION

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS **BACKWARDS** OR **DIAGONALLY**

Now match each word above to the correct Gospel picture below

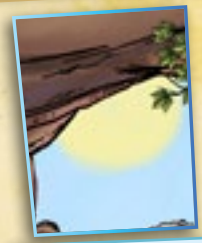
N	F	B	E	L	I	E	V	E	C	C	B	S	X	K	K
O	R	I	S	U	S	N	Z	I	G	F	H	L	X	W	D
I	M	O	E	E	U	F	E	Q	Y	Q	X	U	S	Z	S
T	W	P	E	Z	O	O	H	D	J	Q	O	Y	R	H	Z
A	K	F	D	N	Z	N	W	V	E	W	H	I	K	C	L
I	G	W	Q	O	C	S	E	L	F	L	E	S	S	B	H
L	D	R	E	C	O	N	C	I	L	I	A	T	I	O	N
I	N	S	B	L	J	H	A	N	W	C	G	T	H	M	E
C	O	V	S	E	V	C	Z	J	C	O	R	R	V	C	R
N	I	G	I	E	L	G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



GROWING



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